



# AGAWAM

## Advertiser·News

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Volume XXII Number 51

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

December 22, 1999



THE OUTDOOR MANGER at Feeding Hills Congregational Church on North Westfield Street. Advertiser  
News photo by Kathy Shepard.

## Season's Blessings...

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

— Luke 2:4-14

**From The Sardella Family**  
Ric, Betsy, Kaitlin, And Chase



## Veterans' Corner...

# Commanche Code Talker Recognized At Ceremony

by Ruth C. Bitzas  
Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, Ext. 236/237

"Charles Chibitty, the last surviving member of the elite Commanche Code Talkers, was presented with the Knowlton Award in recognition of his contributions to military intelligence in a recent Pentagon ceremony."

"Along with 16 other Commanche Indians, Chibitty was part of the Army's 4th Signal Company, also known as the Code Talkers. Like the Choc-taws of WWI and the Navajos in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the Code Talkers used their native language to prevent the enemy in the European Theater from intercepting messages of allied troops. The unit was instrumental during the Normandy invasion."

"As a corporal, Chibitty earned the World War II Victory Medal, the European Theater of Operations (5th Bronze Star) Victory Medal, the European-Middle East Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. In his role as Code Talker, Chibitty was a champion boxer in the Army."

"Chibitty also received a special proclamation from the governor of Oklahoma honoring him for his contributions both to Oklahoma and the United States." (Source: *The Stars and Stripes*, December issue.)

Native Americans such as the Commanche Code Talkers and Navajo Code Talkers all played an important part in the cause of freedom, and we honor their service. I think, too, of Marine Ira Hayes, a Native American who helped raise the American flag on Iwo Jima. Over 200 Marines went up that hill and fought the battle, and only 26 walked back down again. Heroes one and all.

**"FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR, THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW."**

I wish each and every reader a blessed holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

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This week, we are listing the Agawam Home of Record WWI veterans whose last names begin with the letter "S" and will be listed on our Agawam Honor Roll.

**WWII HONOR ROLL - "S"**

**SADAK, JOSEPH J.  
SADLER, SHERMAN W.**

SAFFORD, DONALD W.  
SAFFORD, DOUGLAS L.  
SAFFORD, WINFIELD E.  
SANDS, HUBERT E.  
SANTILLO, GEORGE  
SANTINELLO, ANTHONY  
SANTINELLO, FRANK A.  
SANTINELLO, NICHOLAS A.  
SCANNELL, RICHARD F.  
SCARPA, CARMIN  
SCARPA, RAPHAEL  
SCHAEDLICH, ERNEST H.  
SCHERPA, FRANCIS L.  
SCHERPA, LAWRENCE J.  
SCHMIDT, GEORGE W.  
SCOVILLE, ERNEST E.  
SEALANDER, ERNEST G., JR.  
SEALANDER, NORMAN C.  
SEALANDER, RICHARD J.  
SENECAL, FRANCIS A.  
SERRA, DANTE B.  
SHAER, DOMIT J.  
SHAW, DONALD E.  
SHAW, HOWARD L.  
SHAYLOR, DOUGLAS M.  
SHEA, JAMES O.  
SHEA, JAMES T.  
SHELDON, DAVID A.  
SHELDON, EDWARD A.  
SHEPARD, IVAN A.  
SHERMAN, DAVID L.  
SHERRY, THOMAS J.  
SHIBLEY, EDWARD P.  
SHIBLEY, HAROLD  
SHIBLEY, VICTOR J.  
SHIELDS, RICHARD J.  
SIMONE, SAMUEL S.  
SIMONETTA, LEO  
SIMONETTA, ANGELO J.  
SIMPSON, CHARLES M.  
SMARSE, PAUL  
SMARSE, ROBERT  
SMITH, GEORGE  
SMITH, MALCOLM E.  
SMITH, ROBERT E.  
SODEN, RALPH E.  
SODEN, DONALD A.  
SODERLUND, EARL W.  
SOLAROLI, VINCENT P.  
SOPER, ERWIN J., JR.  
SOSATH, FRED C.  
SPEAR, RAYMOND E.  
SPENCER, WINTHROP G.  
SOUAZZA, LEO  
ST. GEORGIO, ANTONIO  
ST. GERMAIN, WILLIAM V.  
\* ST. JEAN, MAURICE  
ST. JOHN, EDGAR A.  
ST. JOHN, WILLIAM L.  
ST. JOHN, FRANCIS J.  
ST. PETER, EDWARD G., JR.  
STAHLE, WINSLOW A.  
STANHOPE, WILLIAM L., SR.  
STAPLETON, RICHARD J.  
STAPLETON, THOMAS H., JR.  
STEPANIK, ROSE M.  
STEPANIK, HENRY  
STELLATO, JAMES  
STETSON, RUSSELL P.  
STETSON, RALPH, JR.  
STEWART, HAROLD L., JR.  
STILLWELL, JOHN W.  
STOCKER, HENRY J.  
STOMSKI, EDWARD  
STRASZKO, EDMUND  
STRINISTE, ROBERT K.  
STROM, KENNETH D.  
STROM, LEROY E.  
STROM, MAX  
SULBORSKI, EDWARD  
\* SULLIVAN, HUGH E.  
SULLIVAN, JOHN E.  
SULLIVAN, JOHN P.  
SULLIVAN, JOHN P.  
SWANSON, ERNEST C.  
SWANSON, ROLAND A.  
SZETELA, STANLEY  
SZUGDA, WALTER J.  
(\* Died while in service.)

"Veterans' Corner" is a regular feature of The Agawam Advertiser News...

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## DECEMBER BEER SPECIALS

<b>Bud &amp; Bud Light</b> 16-Oz. Btls. <b>\$15.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Coors &amp; Coors Light</b> 30-Pk. Cans <b>\$16.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Heineken</b> (Holland) Case - 24 Loose Btls. <b>\$19.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Amstel Light</b> (Holland) Case - 24 Loose Btls. <b>\$19.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Sam Adams</b> (U.S.A.) 12-Pk. Btls. <b>\$9.99</b> (P.D.)
<b>Bass</b> (England) 12-Pk. Btls. <b>\$11.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>New Castel</b> (England) 12-Pk. Btls. <b>\$11.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Molson</b> (Canadian) 12-Pk. Btls. <b>\$7.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Corona &amp; Corona Light</b> (Mexico) 12-Pk. Btls. <b>\$9.99</b> (P.D.)	<b>Grolsh</b> (Holland) 12-Pk. Btls. <b>\$9.99</b> (P.D.)

## DECEMBER LIQUOR SPECIALS

<b>Crown Royal</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$16.99</b>	<b>Romano Sambuca</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$14.99</b>	<b>Tia Maria</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$15.99</b>	<b>Bailey's</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$15.99</b>	<b>Gran Marnier</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$25.99</b>	<b>Drambuie</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$18.99</b>
<b>Absolut Vodka</b> (1.75 Ltr.) <b>\$23.99</b>	<b>Crown Royal</b> (1.75 Ltr.) <b>\$33.99</b>	<b>Canadian Mist</b> (1.75 Ltr.) Less \$3.00 Rebate <b>\$9.99</b>	<b>Canadian Club</b> (1.75 Ltr.) <b>\$16.99</b>	<b>Chivas Regal Scotch</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$22.99</b>	<b>Glenlivet Single Malt</b> (750 ml.) <b>\$23.99</b>

## DECEMBER WINE SPECIALS

### Vendange

Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot (1.5 Ltr.) ..... **\$6.99**  
White Zinfandel (Ltr.) ..... **\$4.99**

### Dunnewood Vineyards (1.5 Ltr.)

Cabernet, Chardonnay ..... **\$10.99**

### Almaden (5 Ltr. Bag-In-A-Box)

Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot, White Zinfandel ... **\$10.99**  
White Zinfandel, Mt. Red Burgundy, White Grenache,  
Mt. Chablis, Mt. Rhine, Golden Chablis, Blush,  
Alfresco Red ..... **\$7.99**

### Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante

(750 ml.) ..... **\$8.49**

### Sutter Home White Zinfandel

(750 ml.) ..... **\$3.99**

### Andre Champagne (750 ml.)

Extra Dry, Brut, Cold Duck, And Pink ..... **3/\$9.99**

### Ballatore Spumante

(750 ml.) ..... **2/\$9.99**

### Gallo Wine Cellars (1.5 Ltr.)

Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot ..... **\$6.99**



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## Guest Editorial...

## Education Is The "Hope" Of The Millennium

by Frank A. Ameruoso, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

How will this holiday season be different from any other we have experienced in our lifetime? Well, it will be the last one of the century, for one thing.

However, it will be the last one of the second millennium (A.D.). Imagine how privileged we are to experience a transition into another millennium. For all practical purposes, it has no literal meaning except maybe for those Y2K alarmists. Yet, we must admit to a certain sense of privilege in being part of the inexorable march of time and progress.

It seems that too many people equate progress with the passage of time. This notion obviously does not take into consideration an accurate perspective of history. We are inclined to peg progress with the quantum leaps we have made in

science/technology and perhaps medicine.

To do so is to ignore the "fact" that the greatest "thought" has already been thought of by the world's greatest philosophers. We can and do make the collective wisdom of the centuries available through our lightning fast and limitless computer technology.

Yet, we are so enamored of the wizardry of the "how" that we almost forget the more important "what." It is the "what" which is the substance of learning and it is the learning that we make happen as educators.

## The "Hope" Of The Millennium

So how will this holiday season be different for us as educators? It will be as different as we determine it to be. Our rededication to teaching/learning in the year 2000 will qualify as

the "hope" of the millennium. To know that we are part of the universal world of knowledge that is perpetuated through intelligent thought and that we are the torchbearers of the light that dispels ignorance is indeed a privilege.

The illuminating quality of the light of knowledge itself needs to be infused by more than the acquisition, application, and synthesis of facts. It needs to embody the spirit of improving our quality of life and that includes a caring for one another. When our knowledge matures in this spirit, it then becomes the wisdom which guides us to grow as human beings. Such is our mission as educators. May the love and peace of this season permeate our mission and may we all be part of the true epiphany which lights the world!



## Letters To The Editor

## Mayor Johnson Offers Best Wishes To Town Residents

## To The Editor:

## To The Residents Of Agawam:

On behalf of my wife and daughter, I want to extend our best wishes to all the residents of Agawam for a happy and healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

I want to extend special holiday wishes to all the town and school employees and their families. I have enjoyed working with you for the past 10-plus years, and I thank you for your outstanding efforts for the residents of our community.

I want to thank the people of Agawam for the opportunity to serve as your mayor for the past 10 years. While the job has been tough at times, it is the most rewarding experience of my professional life.

I am leaving with mixed emotions. It will be sad to leave the people I work with whom I have grown to admire over the past 10 years, and it will be tough to leave a job I truly love.

I believe change is healthy for a community, and I felt the time was right for Agawam to experience change. I am optimistic that the coming change will be positive.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Agawam, and I hope that I have moved our community forward over the past 10 years. Thank you again for your trust and support, and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Very truly yours,  
Christopher C. Johnson  
Mayor

## We Must Work Together To Combat Air Pollution

## To The Editor:

For her wonderful December 9th *Agawam Advertiser News* article on emissions inspections and air pollution, Ms. Kathy Shepard has my congratulations and undying gratitude.

I trust every political figure within our town has read and understands her report. Her report addresses concerns that I have raised before the City Council on numerous occasions, over some period of many years. I do not expect continued dismissal of these concerns. Our new City Council and mayor will share the moral responsibility to finally prioritize them.

For what Ms. Shepard's report finally makes plain, in black and white, is a dangerous local air quality concern that we can ignore no longer. The deplorable air quality within our town can no longer be denied, as we live in a valley where most local air pollutants are spewed below the thermal inversion layer. Depending on the weather, these pollutants create a "dirty bubble" around our town and valley, trapping even more pollutants and pollen. Under these conditions, people suffer!

Beyond the power plant (which will indeed project greenhouse gases below the thermal inver-

sion layer), here within our town now to stay, we have a growing commuter population as well, and we will experience considerably more traffic than ever before with the dawn of the new Six Flags project. Fossil fuels, in both power plant and automobiles, shall be burned in greater quantities than this town has seen in I don't know how many decades. More pollutants shall be trapped in the breath we breathe than most of us have experienced in our lifetime, trapped beneath the "dirty bubble."

Given these two local complications, the changes in emissions testing alone will not address our problem. Our future local complications offset its benefits. Although these changes, together with the move towards cleaner plants, will improve air quality for the Commonwealth overall - our being the site of both a major tourist attraction as well as a power plant, all beneath this "dirty bubble," compromises our situation.

We face a growing ground level ozone problem, increased by the threat of nitrogen oxide emissions from both plant and traffic. Some with asthma have already noticed the difference that increasing traffic alone has caused. That difference is about to be magnified, and some people will be permanently damaged by this.

It is incumbent upon our new City Council and mayor to do more to counter this problem. We must improve, expand, and promote mass transit. We must monitor pollutants from industrial sites, and further regulate such emissions; and we must persist in the preservation, protection, and restoration of wood and forest land to help absorb many pollutants and reduce carbon dioxide.

We particularly need to work with other valley communities, cooperatively, to help implement broader, more fully funded and more complete valley-wide air pollution reduction strategies. We need, as Ms. Shepard so brilliantly put it, to "clear the air."

Sincerely yours,  
Owen R. Broadhurst

## A "Poetic" Message For All Of Us This Holiday Season

## To The Editor:

Peace Be With You  
And Happiness Too.  
Try To Be Happy,  
And Not Be Blue.

*It's Christmas again, the old timer said,*

*I think I'll stay up instead of going to bed.  
With the lights all out, he sat in the chair,  
He knew there was no Santa,  
And he wouldn't be there.  
He looked out the window  
As the snow hit the ground,  
Then all of a sudden he heard a sound.  
His eyes opened quickly, and he turned around,  
There flew by, a man on a sleigh,  
This is impossible, at my age and day,  
Ho, Ho, Ho, and a holiday cheer,  
A voice called out, it was very near.  
Peace be with you, God bless you too.  
I closed my eyes, my body felt a glow.  
My children won't believe, but this I know.  
There's a Santa out there, all dressed in red,  
I was so happy, I didn't go to bed.*

Merry Christmas  
Julian Miodowski  
Agawam

## Thank You For Honoring The Memory Of Kathy Manley

## To The Editor:

The family of Kathy Manley would like to thank the clergy and other members of the Agawam Parish Association for the great honor you have shown her by naming the community Thanksgiving dinner, the "Kathy Manley Memorial Thanksgiving Day Dinner."

It is a great tribute to her memory and we know she would have been honored - as we are.

The Manley and Taylor Families  
Feeding Hills

## Parents Should Be More Concerned About MCAS Test

## To The Editor:

I am writing this letter to all the concerned parents of children who must pass the MCAS test in order to graduate. I attended the Wednesday night meeting at the Junior High Auditorium. The showing was not very impressive, which surprised me.

It was very informative and interesting. It prompted me to write this letter to the Mass. Dept. of Education, which I am including. If there are other parents who are as concerned as I am about the fairness of one test deciding their children's fate,

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...



## The Agawam Advertiser•News

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## LETTERS - from Page 4...

then please write a letter also.

There is a deadline of January 7, 2000 for public complaints. The address is:

Mass. Dept. of Education,  
Assessment & Evaluation  
350 Main Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Maureen C. Haglund  
Feeding Hills

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December 15, 1999

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a child in the graduating class of 2003 who has to pass an MCAS test in order to graduate. I feel that it is an unfair burden to place on a child to pass a test, when there has not been enough time to implement changes in the curriculum to reflect a fair assessment of his abilities.

Which elitist academician can be credited with this brainchild? Whose agenda is it to rush this so-called reform into the educational system? If the MCAS is the sole criteria for graduation, and my child passes it in the 10th grade, then there is no reason for her to continue her education because, according to your standards, she can now graduate. She passed the MCAS. Nothing else matters!!!

There should be a balance between academic performance and the results of one test. Don't penalize our students for a flawed system. You are pigeonholing students and limiting their choices in life. One size does not fit all. Abilities in different areas are not taken into consideration.

If a student has a weakness in math, for instance, according to your standards, he should not be allowed to graduate. Anything else he has accomplished during his academic career should be ignored. Is this fair?

My daughter received a low passing grade of 220 in the eighth-grade math test. She has always been on the honor roll and maintained a grade of B in all her math courses. Am I to conclude that she has not been taught well enough, even though her grades have shown differently? Who am I to hold accountable? In my opinion, it can't be my daughter. She has met the standards set by all her math teachers along the way and they felt she deserved at least a B for her efforts. Are the standards set by the state too high?

Is it fair to make the class of 2003 a scapegoat, and rush a system through that has not been given enough time to be implemented? Should our children be punished for this? I don't think so, and may other parents feel the same way. I agree that there should be standards, but not just one. And if there is only one, then there should be enough time given to those in charge of the curriculum to make the changes necessary to reflect this.

Where are all these children going to go, who do not pass the MCAS? What is their incentive to continue in the educational system? It does not seem to be a well-thought through plan, that would allow our system to fail so many students. There should be redress for an unfair and biased test. Maybe in a court of law, if enough parents would band together, we could address the issue of fairness.

Respectfully yours,  
Maureen C. Haglund  
Feeding Hills

## LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM  
PUBLIC AUCTION

In accordance with Section 39A, Chapter 255 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 P.M. on December 30, 1999 at the Premises of Ace Auto Body, 1363 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts in order to satisfy the Lien of Ace Auto Body for Towing and Storage Charges.

Vehicle — 1990 Ford Escort; VIN — 1FAPP9197LT106420; Name — Robert Goff.  
Vehicle — 1986 Chevrolet Camaro; VIN —

1G1FD87F3GN142895; Name — Todd Hoessler.  
Vehicle — 1993 Buick Regal; VIN — 2G4WB54L4P1434339; Name — David White.

From the office of:  
Warren N. Schreiber  
181 Park Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089  
(413) 781-2273  
Lic. No. 010

Published: December 22, 1999

## LEGAL NOTICE

REMEMBER, WE DO NOT PUBLISH BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S: Our next edition will be published on Thursday, January 6th, and the deadline is Tuesday, January 4th, at 12:00 noon.

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## Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

## Make Sure You Have Two Ways Out In The Event Of A Fire In Your Home

Fire! In your home? No, you think. But, what if it did? Would you and your family know what to do? Would they react safely?

In 1987, the year for which the most current statistics are available, 4,660 deaths occurred in residences in the United States.

The primary problem surrounding this high home fire death rate is the belief by individuals that they won't have an accidental fire, so they aren't prepared when a fire occurs and react improperly when a fire does occur. Family members should plan ahead by taking the following actions in the event their homes are stricken by a fire:

- Install and maintain smoke detector; at least one on each level, and one outside each bedroom area.

- Every occupant should know two ways out of each bedroom; a primary exit (usually the door) and a secondary exit (the window, should the doorway be blocked).

- For primary exit escapes, make sure everyone knows to crawl out on their hands and knees below the smoke. Placing a cloth over their nose and mouth may also reduce smoke inhalation.

- Some family members may need assistance escaping, such as infants, small children, and the elderly. Assign "helpers" in advance so that, in the event of a fire, everyone will know what is expected of them.

- For second- and third-story window escapes, install folding chain escape ladders. They may be stored in a box by the window for quick access.

- Determine an outside meeting place. Make sure everyone is familiar with its designation.

- Most important — practice the plan! Not only during the day, but also at night. Time the evacuation and evaluate your home fire escape plan. Don't wait until a fire occurs to find out that a window is stuck shut.

- Make sure everyone knows not to attempt to extinguish the fire or grab valuables.

- Once all family members are outside at the designated meeting place, if possible, an adult should go to a neighbor's house to telephone the fire department. Memorize your fire department's emergency telephone number — 911 — and have it posted on your phones and the neighbor's phones.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



A Time for Family, Friends...

and Neighbors

The holidays are the perfect time to say "thank you" to you, our friends and neighbors in Agawam and Feeding Hills. We at the Canary Blomstrom Insurance Agency extend our warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous Year 2000!



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## — Agawam Obituaries —

### Susan Beltrandi

Susan Beltrandi, 57, of 70 Plantation Drive, died recently at home. She was an administrative assistant at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield for many years.

Born in Springfield, she lived in Sandwich and Agawam most of her life. She was a graduate of Cathedral High School and Bay Path Junior College. She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church.

She leaves three daughters, Nicole Grise and Danielle Grise, both of Burlington, Vermont, and Jamie Grise of Agawam; two sisters, Joann Bell of Torrance, California, and Harriett Beltrandi of Agawam.

The funeral was at the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, West Springfield. Grise Funeral Home of Chicopee was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 1391 Main St., Springfield, MA 01103 or the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 44 Binney St., Boston, MA 02115.

### Elli C. Sullivan

Elli Christine (Cleffmann) Sullivan, 74, died recently in an East Longmeadow nursing home. She was born in Bokum, Germany.

She leaves her husband, John L. Sullivan; a son, Richard A. of Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey; two daughters, Sharon I. Sullivan of Redwood, California, and Kathryn E. Sullivan of Herne, Germany; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was at Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam, with burial in the new state veterans' cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

### Thomas L. Gieschi

Thomas L. Gieschi, 78, of 335 Cardinal Drive, and formerly of Kimberly Avenue, Springfield, died recently in Baystate Medical Center.

He was a partner in Advantage Capital Co. of West Springfield, an insurance and investment firm. Prior to going into his own business, he worked for Inman Rubber in Ohio, Milton Bradley, and Church Seat in Monson.

Born in Springfield, he graduated from the former Technical High School and Northeastern University in Boston with a degree in chemical engineering. He was a member of the Springfield Elks Club.

His wife, the former Fay Brewster, died in 1996. He leaves a sister, Julia Maroni of Springfield, and a stepdaughter, Reidy Jones of Maine.

The funeral was at Dickinson-Streeter Funeral Home, with burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery, both in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

## In Loving Memory Of Cindie Collins



*We Miss You Greatly  
We Love You!*

Born 3/28/53

Died 12/24/98

### Margaret T. Emery

Margaret T. (Doherty) Emery, 71, of 60 Pheasant Hill Drive, Feeding Hills, a long-time nurse, died recently in Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was a 38-year registered nurse and worked at various hospitals and nursing homes in the area, retiring in 1990.

She was born and lived most of her life in Holyoke, moving to the Agawam/Feeding Hills area 20 years ago.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, Ezra Emery, died in 1985, and a daughter, Kim Emery, died in 1984.

She leaves three sons, David of Franklin, Wisconsin, Mark of Springfield, and Michael of Modesto, California; five daughters, Joan Hale of Eagle River, Alaska, Peggy Ann Grimaldi and Theresa Elkins of Agawam, Nancy Audet of Holyoke, and Shauna Casey of Pascagoula, Mississippi; four brothers, Daniel and John Doherty of Holyoke, James Doherty of Lynn, and Leonard Doherty of Anchorage, Alaska; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

### Rita M. Raina

Rita Maria (Piccinini) Raina, 102, of West Springfield, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was a retired seamstress in the clothing trades.

Born in Robecco Paese, Italy, she lived most of her life in West Springfield.

Her husband, Pierino Raina, predeceased her. She leaves a son, Angelo E. of Agawam; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam and in St. Ann's Catholic Church, West Springfield, with burial in St. Thomas Catholic Cemetery, West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brightside, 2112 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.

### Edward S. Nacewicz, Sr.

Edward S. Nacewicz, Sr., 77, of 66 Norman Terrace, Feeding Hills, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Born in Feeding Hills, he was lifelong resident and a 1939 graduate of Agawam High School.

He was a retired mechanic for Hueblin Bottle Manufacturer in West Hartford, retiring in 1985.

He was a World War II veteran and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

His wife, the former Lillian Attardi, died in 1990.

He leaves four sons, Edward S. Nacewicz, Jr. of Agawam, and triplets Stephen M. Nacewicz of Springfield, Mark J. Nacewicz of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Robert L. Nacewicz of Feeding Hills; two sisters, Helen Krupinski of Westfield and Viola Bishop of West Springfield; and nine grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Agawam Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089.

### Ralph Drouin

Ralph Drouin of Sun City, California, and formerly of Feeding Hills, died recently in a hospital in Bakersfield, California.

Born in Pittsfield, he lived in Feeding Hills for many years.

He moved to California in 1980 and to Sun City in 1998.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean Conflict.

He leaves his wife, Frances Drouin; a son, Mark C. Drouin of Belchertown; two daughters, Mary Ellen Paquette and Geraldine M. Thompson, both of Feeding Hills; a brother, Albert Drouin of Texas; a sister, Doris Moran of Naples, Florida; and five grandchildren.

A memorial Mass was held in Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills, and Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Donations may be made to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

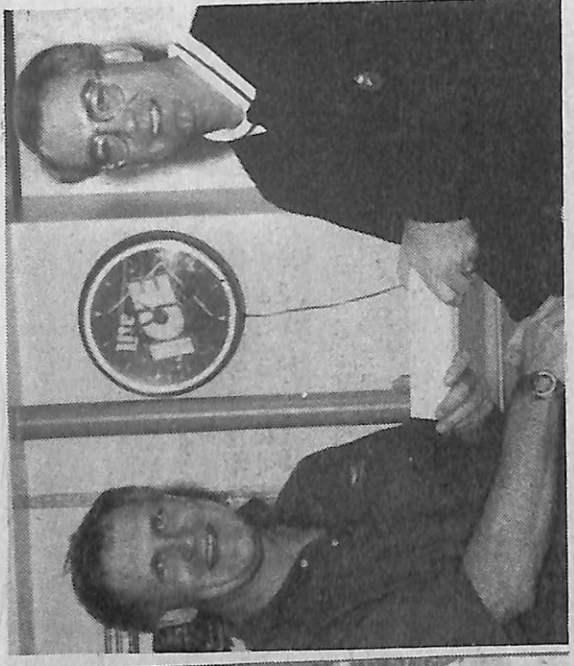
# Season's Eatings

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOURS  
FROM ALL OF US DOWN ON THE FARM.



**E. Cecchi Farms**  
1131 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts 01030





**IN LEFT PHOTO:** The majority of the 58 town employees who were honored at the December 7th luncheon. **IN RIGHT PHOTO:** Ron Dunn receives his five-year gift from Mayor Christopher Johnson. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

## Town Employees Recognized At Awards Program

On December 7th at a luncheon held at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson honored 58 town employees who celebrated five, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service to Agawam.

Created last year, the Employee Service Awards Program acknowledges individuals who have worked full- or part-time and have five or more years of continuous service with the Town of Agawam. The program is an opportunity for the town to voice its appreciation for the dedication of its employees.

The following town employees were recognized at the December 7th luncheon:

### FIVE YEARS:

Anthony J. Albano, Fire Department; Ronald J. Brown, Police Department; Frank A. Cavallo, Fire Department; Paul W. Charter, Building Maintenance; Daniel C. DeGray, Department of Public Works; Ronald D. Dunn, Municipal Golf Course; Ellen M. Dzienisz, Senior Center; Michelle J. Ferreira, Parks & Recreation; Thomas C. Frasco, Municipal Golf Course; Nelson S. Goncalves, Building Maintenance; Jay L. Harvey,

Department of Public Works; Van R. Kacoyanakis, Engineering; Brian P. Keefe, Fire Department; Sandra A. MacFadyen, Personnel; Chester M. Majka, Department of Public Works; Richard A. Riccio, Police Department; David M. Rossi, Department of Public Works; Michael F. Sibilia, Building Maintenance; and Douglas C. White, Jr., Building Maintenance.

### 10 YEARS:

Steven J. Grasso, Police Department; Coleen E. Hebert, Data Processing; and Paul J. Mercadante, Department of Public Works.

### 15 YEARS:

Carol L. Borecki, Building Maintenance; Patricia Breton, Library; Linda M. Cusson, Inspection Services; Fred J. Giordano, Fire Department; Pauline P. Mercadante, Collector's Office; Lawrence M. Montagna, Department of Public Works; Michael A. Pietroniro, Fire Department; Robert F. Pollock, Building Maintenance; Roberto O. Rivera, Department of Public Works; James J. Sibilia, Fire Department; and Judy V. Spencer, Treasurer's Office.

### 20 YEARS:

Stephen I. Bonesteel, Department of Public

Works; Nicholas S. Demko, Sr., Fire Department; Steven G. Draghetti, Police Department; Joseph F. Giordano, Fire Department; Gary E. Nardi, Police Department; Richard J. Niles, Police Department; Mark G. Poggi, Police Department; and Dominic J. Urbinati, Inspection Services.

**25 YEARS:**  
Kenneth P. Avondo, Jr., Fire Department; Alan E. Boissoneault, Fire Department; Andrea R. Ciak, Department of Public Works; Roland J. Dymon, Police Department; Lawrence M. Grady, Fire Department; Henry A. Lach, Engineering; Wayne K. Macey, Police Department; Aldo A. Mancini, Jr., Department of Public Works; Eugene A. Mutti, Fire Department; Kenneth E. Peck, Jr., Department of Public Works; and Donald Wells, Fire Department.

**30 YEARS:**  
Kenneth L. Blair, Fire Department; Robert A. Briggs, Fire Department; Ronald J. Giordano, Fire Department; Ralph K. Grady, Jr., Police Department; Raymond K. Pond, Fire Department; and William J. Silech, Police Department.

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# Town's 1st Mayor Steps Down, Looks Ahead

by Kathy Shepard  
Feature Editor

Outgoing Mayor Christopher Johnson, Agawam's first and only mayor until Richard Cohen steps in on January 3rd, spent a few moments last week with us to reflect on his days as the town's top elected official.

"I want to thank every resident of Agawam for the opportunity to be their mayor. It is a job that I love, has given me great experience, and I am really going to miss it. I consider it an honor to have served the people of Agawam."

Johnson has been trying to get things in order for incoming Richard Cohen so that the new mayor has a chance to gradually "get his feet wet" without being overwhelmed. This has taken more time than anticipated. Johnson will most likely be opening an office in Feeding Hills or Agawam in private law practice in the near future.

At the age of 38, Johnson is leaving the mayoral position because he felt he had reached the time in his life to move into his chosen career. "I am not leaving due to any kind of dissatisfaction. I thought it was a good time for both the town and for me to make a transition." His area of concentration in law is in general practice, with real estate taxation one of his specialties.

When asked what his most exciting moments were as Agawam's mayor, Johnson responded, "Buying the golf course (Agawam Country Club) stands out. It had gone to auction, and actually winning the bid was a high point. Other exciting memories were the cutting of the ribbons at the school additions and at the fire station on Main Street."

The town had a Capital Improvement Program but had not really taken advantage of it prior to Johnson taking office. Johnson looks back on the implementation of this resource as a special accomplishment. Part of the Capital Improvement fund will include the Agawam Public Library addition, expected to be complete by the fall of 2001.

Of his regrets, Johnson mentions the Department of Public Works garage as a project he was



**OUTGOING MAYOR CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON** with administrative staff members **Linda Mercadante and Betty Maloney.** Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

not able to get beyond the planning stage. "I did a lot of research and only wish I could have brought the project closer to completion."

Johnson is proud of projects such as school additions and renovations, the new fire station, and the open space that Agawam has acquired during his tenure, such as the golf course, Tuckahoe Turf Farm, and the property formerly owned by Hampden County off School Street.

**"... Brought Stability And Professionalism ..."**

"I feel that I have brought stability and professionalism to our local government. When I came into office 10 years ago, we were on the heels of 17 years of the manager form of government, which was chaotic at best. Financially, things are in the best condition they've ever been in. We've had three bond rating improvements and the quality of services has improved."

"When I came into this job, there was little cooperation between departments. There were

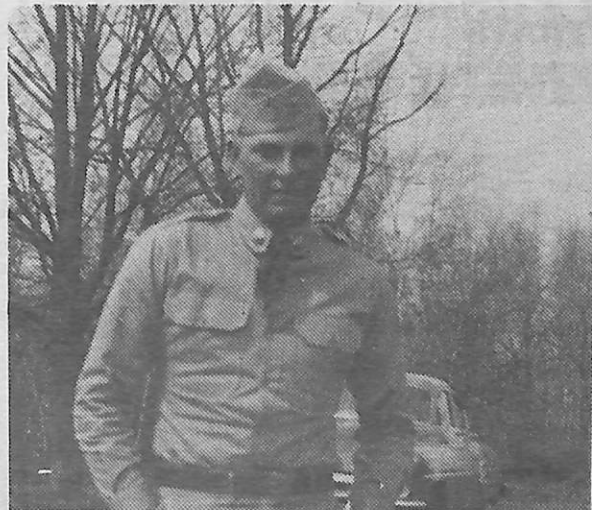
backlogs of work, and without strong leadership, departments were not going in a common direction. There had been no consistent financial planning or management. The average tenure of a town manager was less than three years."

Johnson added, "In fact, the first question that department heads asked me was, 'Should we do what you tell us or what the council tells us?' (The town manager reported to the council in that form of government prior to May 1989.)"

"The operation of the town had to be depoliticized. I had to decide how to provide the best possible service at the lowest cost," he said.

Johnson says he is leaving the town in "great shape financially. The quality of services has improved. I believe that change is good for communities and for people, but I admit that my

**SEE JOHNSON - Page 9...**



## In Memorium Richard P. Stepanik, Sr. *Sadly Missed By Family And Friends*

*The Stepanik Family Thanks Everyone  
For The Many Cards And Flowers  
During This Time Of Bereavement*

### Special Thanks To:

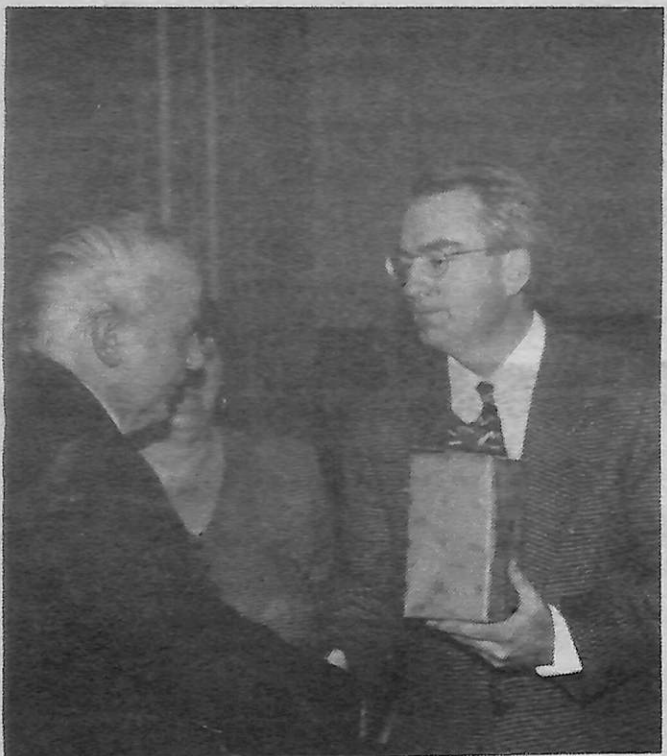
Fred Pajer Of Pajer's Superette,  
Oak Ridge Golf Club, And To The Folks  
Of Hospice







IN TOP PHOTO: Outgoing Mayor/School Committee Chairman Christopher Johnson and School Committee member Linda Galarneau. IN PHOTO BELOW: Outgoing School Committee member Louis Massoia and Johnson. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



### From State Rep. Keenan... Regional Student Program Can Lower Cost Of Tuition

Representative Dan Keenan is pleased to announce that college-bound students applying for the fall 2000 semester, who find that their intended area of study is not offered by any Massachusetts public college or university, may benefit from the New England Board of Higher Education's Regional Student Program (RSP).

The RSP provides a tuition break to Massachusetts residents enrolled in certain degree programs at public campuses in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont if the programs are not offered by Massachusetts' public institutions. At some public campuses, RSP students pay half the tuition they would ordinarily pay as "out-of-state" students.

All of New England's 78 public two-year and four-year colleges and universities participate in the RSP program, offering more than 700 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs at reduced out-of-state tuition.

The New England Board of Higher Education's 2000-01 *Apple Book*, the annual RSP catalog, explains eligibility and lists programs available in the academic year 2000-01. The *Apple Book* is available throughout New England at high school guidance offices and libraries, city and town libraries, and at public college admissions offices.

An on-line version of the catalog is available at [www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org). For more information, contact the Office of the Regional Student Program, New England Board of Higher Education, 45 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111; 617-357-9620.



AT THE FINAL AGAWAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF 1999 (from left to right): Mayor/School Committee Chairman Christopher Johnson, School Committee member Roberta Doering, Deputy Superintendent Donald Charest, School Committee Secretary Teresa Kozloski, Superintendent of Schools Frank Ameruso, School Committee member Linda Galarneau, Assistant Superintendent Mary Czajkowski, Ann Phillips (Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools), Mary-Elizabeth Dupelle (AHS student representative to the School Committee), School Committee member Rosemary Sandlin, School Committee Vice-Chairwoman Susan Pettazzoni, and School Committee member Louis Massoia. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

#### JOHNSON - from Page 8...

choice to not run again for Mayor was one of the toughest decisions I've ever made."

Johnson has become more than a familiar figure in this town, presiding at School Committee meetings, Employee Recognition lunches, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, retirement banquets, and dozens of celebrations and important events that have brought meaning and cohesion to the town.

Johnson has shared his personal life with us — his wife, Anna; his daughter, Emily; and his parents, Robert and Marilyn Johnson. They have become part of the town's landscape as well.

Last week, the School Committee honored Johnson as well as outgoing Committeeman Louis Massoia for their dedicated service. Susan Pettazzoni, vice-chairwoman of the Agawam School Committee, said that, "Emily Johnson will be the beneficiary of her father's work when she becomes old enough to attend school."

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137.

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## Families

### Children's Christmas Party At Polish-American Club...



ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, the annual children's Christmas party was held at the Polish-American Club in Feeding Hills. Santa Claus arrived for the festivities in a big red truck, and 85 children received presents from the jolly old elf. In addition, a guide dog named "Gustav" (in right photo), who is being trained by Joe & Edna Miodonka, received a gift from Santa. Two clowns entertained the kids prior to Santa's arrival, and — according to Polish Club secretary Eddie Barako — a "jolly good time" was had by all.

#### Holiday Gift Ideas From The Agawam Historical Association

The Agawam Historical Association is offering a number of items for sale in time for holiday gift-giving:

\* A commemorative poster, notecard, and postcard featuring Adrienne Lacey's painting of the Elm Street Station.

\* Commemorative pins depicting the new Fire Department headquarters, or the Elm Street Station.

\* A set of four coffee mugs featuring the Elm Street Station on one side and antique fire equipment on the reverse.

For more information or to purchase any of these items, please contact Carol or Bill Miller at 786-7329.

#### Senior Ctr. "Friends" To Sponsor Jan. 24th Trip To Mohegan Sun

The "Friends" of the Agawam Senior Center will sponsor a trip to Mohegan Sun on Monday, January 24th.

The price will be \$16 and will include gratuities, a \$10 meal, and a \$10 play on the Big Wheel.

We will leave from the Senior Center at 8:00 a.m., leave at 4:00 p.m. from the casino, and arrive home at 5:30 p.m. This trip is open to the public.

For reservations, call Nellie Mathias, 786-9093, or stop by the "Friends" desk at the Senior Center.

#### Agawam Senior Center To Begin Winter Cribbage Tournament

The Agawam Senior Center's winter cribbage tournament will start on January 6th and end on March 31st.

Try to get there before 1:00 p.m. to register. Play starts at 1:00 p.m., and all are welcome.

The Center's fall tournament ended on December 10th. The top three scorers were Maurice Bellemore, Dave Barden, and Ed O'Brien.

#### ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Kerry Anne Schindler Becomes Bride Of John Michael Kew

Kerry Anne Schindler and John Michael Kew, both of Orleans, were joined in marriage in the garden of the Old Sea Pines Inn in Brewster by the Reverend Kent Moorehead. A reception at the Inn followed.

The bride, daughter of Maureen Schindler of Agawam and Peter A. Schindler of East Haddam, Connecticut, was given in marriage by her parents to the son of Patricia Kew of Orleans, and James Kew of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kathleen Schindler of Agawam was her sister's maid of honor. Ron Kew of Goffstown, New Hampshire, served as best man.

Standing up for the bride and groom were Peter M. Schindler of Agawam, brother of the bride, and Rick Smith of Eastham. Larissa Hayden of Ludlow was the couple's flower girl.

The bride is a graduate of Agawam High School, the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and received her post-baccalaureate teacher certification from Westfield State College in 1993. She is fulfilling her year of service as an Americorps VISTA member at the Orleans Council on Aging as Intergenerational Program Volunteer Coordinator.

The bridegroom graduated from Nauset Regional High School, attended the University of Las Vegas in Nevada, and is pursuing a degree in Computer Information Services. He is employed by Atwood Food Service in Dennis.

Mr. & Mrs. Kew honeymooned in Maui and Kauai. They are residing in Orleans.



MR. & MRS. JOHN MICHAEL KEW

## Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

**Monday, December 27th:** Swedish meatballs on egg noodles, carrot coins, rye bread, baked apples.

**Tuesday, December 28th:** Roast turkey, stuffing with gravy, butternut squash, oatmeal bread, brownie.

**Wednesday, December 29th:** Turkey vegetable soup, ham salad on a roll, broccoli salad, pears.

**Thursday, December 30th:** Golden carrot soup, quiche, tossed salad (bacon, cheese, tomato), whole wheat bread, mixed fruit.

**Friday, December 31st:** New Year's Eve (Senior Center closed).

**Monday, January 3rd:** Stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, corn, whole wheat bread, pears.

**Tuesday, January 4th:** Pasta and egg soup, chicken cutlet on a roll, lettuce and tomato, birthday cake.

**Wednesday, January 5th:** Meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rye bread, ice cream.

**Thursday, January 6th:** Sweet and sour ribs, rice Oriental, peas, whole wheat bread, applesauce.

**Friday, January 7th:** Baked fish, steak fries, cole slaw, oatmeal bread, peaches.

## Blue Cross/Blue Shield Prog. At Senior Ctr.

The Agawam Senior Center will host Blue Care 65 on December 29th at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

An informational presentation is being offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It is available to all Medicare beneficiaries, including those who qualify on the basis of disability.

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

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ROBERT W. WINKLER &amp; CHRISTIE L. SCHEVE

## Christie Leigh Scheve Engaged To Wed Robert W. Winkler

Linda B. Scheve of Feeding Hills is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Christie Leigh Scheve, to Robert William Winkler of Longmeadow.

Christie is a 1992 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1996 graduate of Boston University, where she received her bachelor of science degree from the Sargent College of Allied Health Professions. She also received her master of science in physical therapy degree from the Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences of Boston University in January of 1998.

She is employed as a physical therapist in the children's rehabilitation department at the Weldon Center of Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Robert, the son of Maximilian and Barbara Winkler of Longmeadow, is a 1990 graduate of Longmeadow High School and a 1994 graduate of Salve Regina in Newport, Rhode Island. He is presently working towards his master's degree in business at Western New England College. He is employed as an underwriter by Travelers' Property and Casualty in Hartford, Connecticut.

A June 2001 wedding is planned.

\*\*\*

*Please remember to patronize your local businesses this holiday season ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!*

\*\*\*

## Navy Seaman John L. Rodriguez Completes Submarine Course

Navy Seaman Recruit John L. Rodriguez, recently graduated from the Basic Enlisted Submarine Course at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT.

Rodriguez's wife, Christina, is the daughter of Charles and Sharon Garwacki of 420 Springfield Street, Agawam.

During the five-week course, Rodriguez learned the basic theory, construction, and operation of nuclear-powered submarines. He also learned shipboard organization, damage control, and submarine safety and escape procedures.

Rodriguez participated in hands-on training with reality simulators, practicing firefighting and flood control on board a submarine. He also learned about a submarine's basic hydraulic, water, and air systems, and practiced escaping from a simulated sinking submarine.

With nearly 50 percent of the Navy's ships and submarines deployed at any given time, Rodriguez will spend roughly a quarter of his enlistment at sea.

As a graduate of the Basic Enlisted Submarine Course, Rodriguez demonstrates his tremendous ability to excel in an elite underwater force.

Whether assigned to ships, squadrons, or shore commands around the world, men and women like Rodriguez are making a difference as they work to improve their knowledge and skill as part of the most highly technical naval force in history. Rodriguez joined the Navy in June 1999.

## January Calendar From Agawam Golden Age Club (Chapter 2)

**Wednesday, January 5th:** Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. (Entertainment - bingo.)

**Wednesday, January 19th:** Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. (Entertainment - Acappella Choir from Holyoke High School.)

**Friday, January 28th:** Board of Directors' meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

\*\*\*

Annual dues for the year 2000 are now payable. Please send remittance to Harry Durant, 66 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Senior citizens living in Agawam are invited to join the Agawam Golden Club (Chapter 2).

*Best local news...*

## Safety Tips For You And Your Babysitter This Holiday Season

Before stepping out to a holiday party without the kids, be certain that the sitter you select shares your concerns for your child's safety.

"Parents believe that if a sitter is responsible, reliable, and affectionate towards children, the sitter will know how to avoid or handle a crisis situation," said Shirley LaRoche, R.N., coordinator, Western Massachusetts Safe Kids Coalition, headquartered at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

The most important part of any babysitting job, however, is keeping a child safe from harm, LaRoche noted. She recommends that you discuss with the prospective sitter the following concerns for your child's safety while in their care:

### INTERVIEWING THE BABYSITTER

- Is the sitter experienced and reliable?
- Does he or she have references?
- Did the sitter take a special "babysitter" training course?
- Is the sitter certified in infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)?
- Does the sitter know what to do in case of an emergency?

LaRoche recommends that you walk through the following with your sitter before leaving your child in the sitter's care:

- Give the babysitter a tour of your home. Point out the baby gates, child resistant locks, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, electrical outlet covers, toilet locks, and more. Show the sitter where the phones, fire extinguishers, first aid supplies, flashlight, and extra blankets are located in case of an emergency.
- Write down emergency numbers and leave them by all telephones.
- Map out the approved play areas in your house.
- Instruct your sitter to never leave your child alone - even for a minute.
- Plan and practice several fire escape routes from the house in the event of a fire, and identify an outside meeting place.

If you leave your child at a daycare center or at the sitter's home, make sure you review the information mentioned above as well as tour the facility or home beforehand. Check to see that the caregiver has taken precautions to "child-proof" his or her home or daycare site. Verify that the sitter is following state or local guidelines on the number of children the daycare provider can babysit.

"By taking the necessary precautions with your home and the babysitter, you can ensure a happy and safe new year for you and your family," noted LaRoche.

Baystate Medical Center offers a Babysitting Academy for young adults on the topics of baby care, first aid, fire safety, home security, accident prevention, CPR, and more. The next two-day session is Jan. 8th and 15th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For information on the class, call 794-2229 (BABY).

For more information on Safe Kids, call LaRoche at 794-5434.

## Happy Holidays

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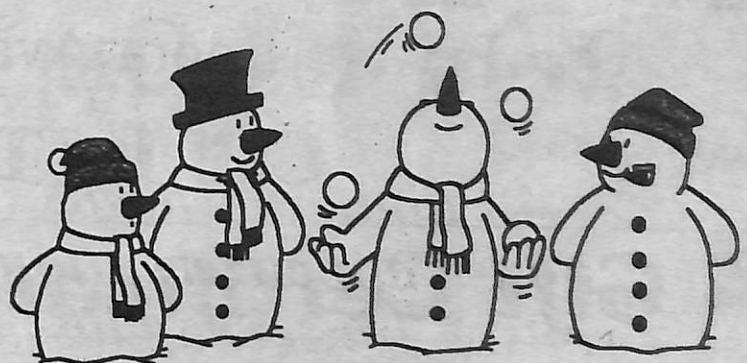
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Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday Season.





**"Beauty Corner"**  
by Mary Ann Zicolella

**Salon Tres Chic**  
At Twin Silos  
1407 Suffield Street  
Agawam, MA 01001  
(413) 786-8274

### How To "Pamper" Yourself...

This week I thought it would be fun to luxuriate at home, so I would like to share some of my recipes for pampering your skin from head to toe. This is a great idea for the person who doesn't have the time or the money to go to an expensive spa. So, step out of your hectic routine and give yourself some well-deserved attention.

To start, turn the ringer off on your phone, then set the mood with some low lights, aroma candles, soft music, and maybe some flowers. Pour a cup of hot tea and throw away the cares of the day. Now you're ready to begin.

First, wash your hair and apply a good conditioner or treatment. Wrap hair in Saran wrap and a towel. This will keep the heat from the scalp in to help the treatment work.

Now we will be cleansing the skin. Mix five strawberries (astrigent), 1½ teaspoons baking soda (cleanser), one egg and one tablespoon vanilla yogurt (moisturizer), one-quarter cup whole almonds with skins (exfoliant), together in blender until smooth. Apply mixture to face and gently scrub in circular motion. Rinse off with warm water and pat dry.

Next, we will steam open the pores of your face to release impurities missed during regular cleaning. Heat two quarts distilled water and a half-cup of your favorite dried herb (I like chamomile or peppermint) to boiling. Remove from heat and drape a towel over your head, then carefully lean

over the pot. Relax and breathe deeply for at least five minutes.

\*\*\*

Moisturizing is important for all skin types. Mix two tablespoons jojoba oil (seals moisture) and seven to 10 drops of your favorite essential oil (I like chamomile), and apply to dry skin. Oily skin will do better with a blend of two tablespoons aloe vera gel (greaseless moisturizer) and seven to 10 drops of your favorite essential oil (protects and moisturizes), whisked together until well-blended. Apply evenly to face and neck.

Next, for a full-body treatment, combine three cups coarse kosher salt, one cup safflower oil, and seven to 10 drops of your favorite essential oil to make a paste. Rub onto skin all over, except face and neck. Pay special attention to rough skin on the hands, elbows, and feet. Rinse off with warm water and pat dry.

To relieve sore muscles, moisturize dry skin, and to calm the senses, combine one cup epsom salts, one teaspoon jojoba oil, and five to seven drops of lavender oil (rose oil is also nice), and add to running bath water.

To reduce eye puffiness, steep chamomile tea bag in one cup boiling water for five minutes. Remove bag and cool. Add a half-cup rose water to tea. Soak two cotton pads in this preparation and place over eyelids. Relax in warm bath and listen to your favorite music for at least 10 to 20 minutes.

Rinse hair in tepid water. For a gentle rinse that will remove build-up as well as leftover shampoo and conditioner, mix two cups distilled water with two tablespoons dried rosemary (dark hair) or chamomile (light hair) and heat to boiling. Remove and let cool. Strain out herbs and pour rinse through hair. Pat dry and style as usual.

Lastly, don't forget to moisturize the cuticles on hands and feet. Mix one teaspoon olive oil and one teaspoon vitamin E oil together and massage into nails and cuticles.

All recipes can be made ahead and stored in containers. Some may need refrigeration.

Thought for a smile ... church bells ringing. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



AIRMAN STEPHEN G. WALTERS

## Airman Stephen G. Walters Graduates From Basic Training

Air National Guard Airman Stephen G. Walters has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and customs, and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Walters is the son of Kevin G. and Alexandria Walters of 374 Poplar Street, Agawam.

He is a 1999 graduate of Agawam High School.

Mary Ann Zicolella's "Beauty Corner" is a regular feature of The Agawam Advertiser News...

\*\*\*\*\*

# Alexander's

60 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills

Your Hosts,  
Marlene and Charles Grasso

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## Join Us On New Year's Eve...

*All dinners will include Alexander's house appetizers, house salad, potato, rolls & butter, a glass of complimentary champagne, and Alexander's special New Year's dessert.*

*Everyone is invited into the banquet room for Alexander's very own Millennium Celebration featuring the live sounds of "Stormin Norm Richards."*

Happy New Year and please drive safely ... The Grasso Family

**Call In Your Reservations Now — 786-1127**





## Church News



**Reflections...**  
submitted by  
**Rev. Peter Monahan**  
Pastor of the New Life  
Christian Church,  
Suffield, CT  
(413) 789-1377 or  
toll free (877) 643-9801

### The Best Christmas Present Of All

Oy veh, it's Christmas already! Again. It seems to come upon us so fast! Christmas, among other things, signals the conclusion of the year. Each year seems to pass by more quickly than the last. Just a few days after Christmas, and yet another year is over.

The original Christmas was not a signal of things concluding, but rather, of new things beginning again. It did not, however, signal the beginning of life for Jesus. He was not "created," or originated that first Christmas. Unlike regular people who are created in a mother's womb, He was alive since before the creation of the world. Nevertheless, His birth did signal a new beginning for humankind.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born out of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Christmas is about God giving each of us the chance to begin again. Who among us can honestly claim to have gotten it entirely right the first time? Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." Christmas is about getting to take the test

over again, but this time the test paper is marked "PASSED" already.

The person whose birth we stop to celebrate on Christmas morning was no ordinary human being. He was exceptionally different. There was never anyone like Him before, nor was there anyone like Him ever since.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs.

The world's story about Christmas is "be good, and Santa will give you what you deserve." If we are honest with ourselves, that's *not* the deal we want to make with God! Fortunately for us, God's story about Christmas is radically different, and radically superior.

The Psalmist wrote: **Show us Your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation. I will listen to what God the Lord will say; He promises peace to His people, His saints - but let them not return to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before Him and prepares the way for His steps.**

The best Christmas present of all, for any person, whether young or old, is the present which God alone gives. That present is Jesus Christ Himself, the true light that gives light to every person. He is more wonderful than anything the world has or can offer. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. Rather than hope for "stuff," let's each of us pray to know God's love better! The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### Christmas Eve Services Scheduled At Agawam Congregational Church

On Friday, December 24th, there will be two Christmas Eve Services at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The first will be at 5:00 p.m. and will feature the Christmas Pageant, "The Best Christmas Present Ever," by Rachel Olson. Co-directed by Steve Lemire, Lucy Young, and Neil Ellsworth, the Pageant will feature over 25 children and youth and will celebrate the Christmas Story. There will

also be a special Christ candle ceremony, along with traditional hymns and the Youth Brass Ensemble featuring two selections ("Snow" and "Angels We Have Heard on High").

The 11:00 p.m. service will feature the traditional candlelighting with the Agawam Congregational Sanctuary Choir singing Christmas anthems.

Join us for one or both special services.

### Announcements From Sacred Heart Church In Feeding Hills

#### BLESSING OF GIFTS ON DECEMBER 26TH

Children and adults are invited to bring at least one gift received at Christmas to be blessed on Sunday, December 26th.

The blessing will occur at each of the Masses. **CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLAKI)**

Envelopes of Christmas wafers (fuller explanation on the envelope) are now available at the rectory or in the sacristy for a donation of \$1 per envelope.

These wafers are blessed, to be broken and shared with greeting at the supper on Christmas Eve or when the whole family is able to gather at the home's communion table.

Families and couples are invited to share in this rich Polish tradition.

#### JUNIOR & SENIOR CHOIRS

The Junior Choir will be singing at the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. They will also sing songs from the Christmas Concert before the Mass, starting at 5:15 p.m. So please come early and enjoy the music and singing.

The Senior Choir will be singing before the Midnight Mass, starting at 11:45 p.m.

Our newly-formed Brass Ensemble will be playing before the Midnight Mass, starting at 11:30 p.m. So please come early and enjoy listening to some great Christmas music. The Brass Ensemble will also be playing some music during the Mass with the organ and choir.

#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Christmas Mass schedule for December 24th and 25th is as follows:

**Friday, December 24th (Christmas Eve):** 4:00 p.m., Vigil Mass; 5:30 p.m., Children's Mass; 12:00 midnight, Midnight Mass.

**Saturday, December 25th (Christmas Day):** 7:30 a.m., Mass at Dawn; 9:00 p.m., Mass during the Day; 11:00 a.m., Mass during the Day.

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Masses are as follows:

**Friday, December 31st,** 4:00 p.m.; **Saturday, January 1st,** 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

\*\*\*

**REMEMBER, WE DO NOT PUBLISH BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S: Our next edition will be published on Thursday, January 6th, and the deadline is Tuesday, January 4th, at 12:00 noon.**

\*\*\*

### You've Come A Long Way, Daddy!

*We're so proud of you!*

*Congratulations on becoming captain  
of the Springfield Fire Department.*

Love,

Taryn, Heather, Kendra, and Lauri



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## Church News - continued...

## Calendar From Ag. Congregational

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, two services will be held at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The first is at 5:00 p.m. and will include the Pageant presented by children and youth of the church and the Youth Brass Ensemble.

The second is at 11:00 p.m. and will include the reading of the Christmas lessons, much carol singing, the ACC Sanctuary Choir, a story by the interim pastor, Dr. Eric W. Bascom, and will end with the traditional lighting of candles.

All throughout the community are invited, including the members and friends of the church, residents of greater Agawam, and any young people attending college or in military service who are at home for the holidays.

The First Sunday after Christmas (December 26th) will be celebrated with services at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Frank H. Knight, the pastor emeritus of First Park Memorial Baptist Church, will be preaching in the absence of Dr. Bascom, who is on vacation.

Mr. Knight will speak on "On to Bethlehem, Jesus is Born," taken from the scripture Matthew 2.

Rev. Frank Knight was born and brought up in Boston, MA. He served in the U.S. Army, and is a graduate of Franklin College, Indiana, and of Andover Newton Theological School. He has served several churches in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts as pastor.

He served as the Protestant Chaplain of the U.S. Armed Forces in Hong Kong during the Vietnam War in Missionary Service. In 1971, he became the pastor of the First Park Memorial Baptist Church of Springfield and served there as pastor for 22 years before retiring in December 1992.

In retirement, Rev. and Mrs. Knight have taught English in China and have traveled throughout Europe and Asia. Rev. Knight and Rev. Bascom have been friends in Ministry since 1971.

There will not be any Church School this Sunday, December 26th.

The Church School schedule will resume next Sunday, January 2nd, for all classes.

The First Sunday in the new millennium (January 2nd) will include a Service of Holy Communion. Church School will be at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and worship will be at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Eric Bascom, interim pastor, will preach on "What is Time?" Scripture readings are Jeremiah 31:7-14 and Ephesians 1:3-14.

Men are invited to join the Men's Prayer Time, which meets at 7:45 each Tuesday morning.

We read from the devotional guide "Upper Room" for meditation and discussion, with time for coffee and fellowship.

Rev. Eric Bascom's book, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Pulpit," is now on sale.

The \$10 book may be purchased at the church office.

For more information concerning any of our events, please call the church office at 786-7111.

## St. John's Parish News And Notes

### OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24th: 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 12:00 midnight.

December 25th: 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

### THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree program has concluded for the 1999 holiday season. Over 600 gifts were placed below this tree, and (along with food gift certificates) they made their way to those whom we serve with our generosity.

We pray for all these families who received these gifts. May they know Jesus a little better this year because of the love of so many here at St. John's.

### DON'T FORGET

Groups and committees who wish to use the facilities in the Parish Center and Church are reminded to sign up in the Parish Office with date and time.

Some problems have arisen with conflicting schedules.

### FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Remember, the beautiful season of Christmas goes through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord — January 9, 2000.

We might be tempted to take down the trimmings when the stores switch over to the next sale season, but why not try this year to fight the trend and keep the season going as long as it should be.

## Agawam United Methodist Church To Hold Christmas Eve Service Of Carols & Candlelight

A Christmas Eve service of carols and candlelight will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St. (opposite the High School).

The choir will present two anthems, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Holy Christmas Night." All the familiar carols will be sung by the congregation.

gregation.

On Sunday morning, December 26th at 9:30, at our regular morning service, the choir will complete its Christmas cantata, "A Simple Christmas."

We welcome all as we continue our Christmas celebration.

For all the hometown news, you turn our pages each and every week ... AAN!!!



**Happy Holidays!**

**E.B.'s**

*As The Millennium Draws To  
A Close, Come Home To E.B's—  
We're Making It Easy On You!*

### HOLIDAY HOURS:

Please take notice of the hours  
we will be open during the holiday season:

**Christmas Eve (Friday) - 11:00 A.M. To 7:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Day (Saturday) - Closed**

**New Year's Eve (Friday) - 11:00 A.M. To 8:00 P.M.**

**New Year's Day (Saturday) - 3:00 P.M. To 10:00 P.M.**

- \* 150 Buffalo Wings (mild, midway, hot or TNT)
- \* Party Tray of Chicken Nuggets (small or large; with dip)
- \* Pan of Lasagna (quarter, half or whole pan)
- \* Homemade Meatballs
- \* Ziti w/Marinara sauce (quarter, half or whole pan)
- \* Chicken & Broccoli over Ziti (quarter, half or whole pan)
- \* Cold Cut Tray (small or large, with or without Roast Beef)
- \* Tossed Salad w/Dressing of Your Choice (quarter, half or whole pan)
- \* Stuffed Shells w/Cheese in Marinara Sauce
- \* Greek Salad w/Greek dressing (quarter, half, whole)
- \* Pan of Cut-Up Sausage w/Peppers & Onions (quarter, half or whole pan)
- \* Eggplant Parmesan (quarter, half or whole pan)
- \* Raw Vegetable Platter (small or large)
- \* Other Selections From Our Menu Available, Please Inquire

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You Take It!*

*From Our E.B.'s Family To Yours:  
Happy Holidays And Best Wishes  
In The Next Millennium!*



## Church News - continued...

## Boar's Head Festival To Be Held At Valley Community Church

The Valley Community Church will be presenting its fifth annual Boar's Head Festival on Wednesday, January 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at 152 S. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills, MA.

Over 25 participants will don medieval costumes to re-enact this ancient festival that celebrates the arrival of the three kings and the coming of the new year.

Accompanied by an instrumental and madrigal group, the company of townsfolk (with their harvest and livestock) proceed through the church in preparation for the royal Magi.

As in the past, entertainment abounds with music, dancing, and jestering, as well as other surprises that make this a yearly anticipated event for the whole family.

Many members of the community (as well as from the church) return to perform as lords and ladies of the manor; village folk with baskets of bread, fruits, and vegetables; and young people who love to parade down the aisle displaying their animals, which in past years have included everything from guinea pigs to goats and llamas.

The procession culminates with the entrance of the boar's head to signify good over evil, and the arrival of the three kings, resplendent in their royal costumes and singing "We Three Kings."

They, along with their royal pages, will present their gifts before a living Nativity of The Holy Family, shepherds, and angels at the altar.

It's a spectacle on a small, intimate scale that's sure to be enjoyed by all who attend. The public is cordially invited, and admission is free.

Following the hour-long presentation, the congregation will be invited downstairs to Dunn Hall to enjoy a feast of finger foods and dessert, and to enjoy viewing up close all the animals involved in this glorious pageant.

For more information, call pageant directors Lyle Pearsons or Margie Secora at (413) 786-2445.

## 'Revival Week' Calendar From Faith Bible Church

**Tuesday, December 28th:** Speaker - Pastor Tom Crouse, Senior Pastor of Holland Congregational Church, who'll be bringing musicians and singers from their congregation (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.).

**Wednesday, December 29th:** Speaker - Pastor Dave Brown, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in East Longmeadow. Pastor Brown's church will bring live bands and worship teams (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.).

**Thursday, December 30th:** Speaker - Pastor Dave Brown from First Baptist Church in East Longmeadow (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.).

**Friday, December 31st:** Family Night at Faith Bible Church (6:00 p.m. to ???).

The music rising from this church during the week will be incredible. There are so many gifted musicians and singers from these churches performing their specially chosen songs for this special time.

All who attend will find their trip well worth it. This week will be filled with memories to last forever. We welcome your attendance, as all are welcome.

We are located at 370 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. There will also be dynamic preaching along with the music.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, there will be food, fellowship, worship, and prayer as we get on our knees to welcome Jesus into the new millennium.

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" - 2 Chron 7:14.*

For more information, contact Faith Bible Church at 786-1681.

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**DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS,** we will be publishing various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in our first two January issues.

\*\*\*

## Weekly News And Notes From Feeding Hills Congregational Church

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Our Sunday morning service of worship begins at 10:00 a.m. We will welcome as our guest that morning Diane Ball, who will lead us in worship while Rev. Donaldson is on vacation.

Ushers will be Tom and Chris Chapman. Nick Pelter and Andy Kretschmar will be our acolytes. There will be no Sunday School this week. Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

A special collection for the Veterans of the Cross will be taken during the Christmas Eve service that begins at 7:30 p.m. The collection will be continued on the following Sunday.

All church members are reminded that Sunday, December 26th is Gift & Promise Sunday.

Annual Reports will be due in the Church Office two weeks before the Annual Meeting. Rest assured that the Y2K bug will not prevent Elaine from letting you know the exact date as soon as it is set!

\*\*\*

### On the calendar:

**Friday, Dec. 24th:** 7:30 p.m., Candlelight Service  
**Sat., Dec. 25th:** Happy Christmas to All!  
**Sun., Dec. 26th:** 10:00 a.m., Gift & Promise Sunday; 12:00 noon-8:00 p.m., Church of Redemption  
**Mon., Dec. 27th:** 6:00 p.m., Wedding rehearsal; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
**Tues., Dec. 28th:** 5:00-6:30 p.m., Wedding; 7:00 p.m., A.A.  
**Wed., Dec. 29th:** 2:45 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir  
**Thurs., Dec. 30th:** 7:00 p.m., A.A.

## Activities And Events Announced By Valley Community Church In F. Hills

Members and families at Valley Community Church want to wish a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to our friends and neighbors in the community. As always, we welcome you to share with us in worship and fellowship.

Here are some upcoming dates of importance:  
**Friday, December 24th:** 11:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**Sunday, December 26th:** 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship. Deacon Lyle Pearsons will lead the service; 10:30 a.m., Fellowship in Dunn Hall.

**Monday, December 27th:** 7:00 p.m., Boar's Head Festival meeting and rehearsal (members of the community are welcome to sign up).

**Sunday, January 2nd:** 9:30 a.m., Sunday Wor-

ship. Pastor Gene de Jongh will lead the service; 6:30 p.m., Boar's Head dress rehearsal.

**Wednesday, January 5th:** 7:00 p.m., fifth annual Boar's Head Festival. The community is welcome to this free event.

\*\*\*

The Valley Community Church is a non-denominational church that welcomes all who profess a love and belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. Those who would know Him and His Word are welcome to our services and activities at 152 S. Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

You may call Pastor Gene de Jongh at (413) 786-2445 for more information.

## Weight Loss Orientation Program On January 4th At St. David's Church

Don't be a slave to food any longer. God does not intend for food to control us, but sometimes we let this happen.

Join us at St. David's Episcopal Church for a free, no-obligation orientation about the "Weight-Down" Program. Orientation will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 4th at 7:00 p.m. at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

This is a 12-week program for both men and women. For a registration fee, participants

receive their own manuals and audiocassettes for home study. Classes will begin January 19th at 9:00 a.m. and January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Since materials must be ordered before the start of class, individuals must be registered two weeks before the first class.

For more information about this exciting program, please call Sharon at (860) 668-8701 or the church office at (413) 786-6133.

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## Christmas Blessings...

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## Spotlight On Business

### Local Merchants Are In The "Green" This Season

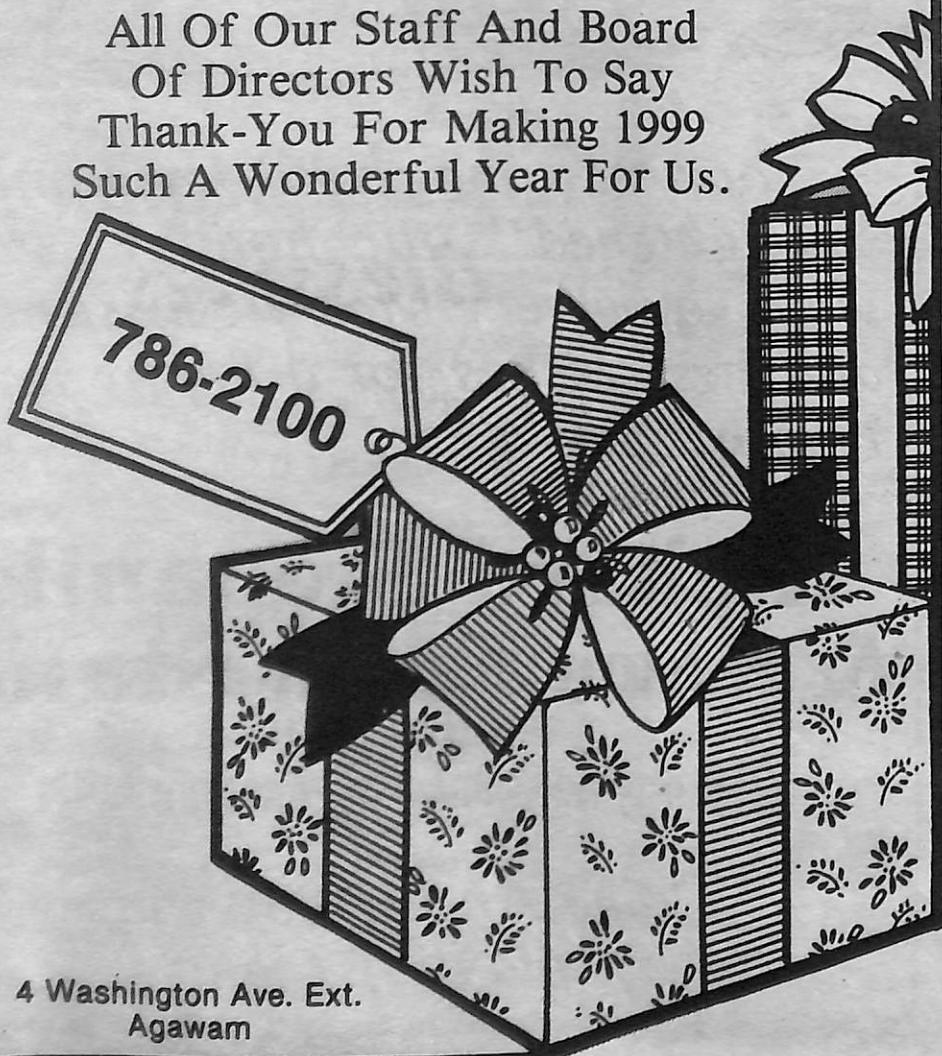


IN LEFT PHOTO: Pam Cincotta shows off some of the various wreaths and Christmas plants that are for sale at Cincotta Farms, 1252 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. IN RIGHT PHOTO: At DeCaro Brothers Garden Center, 1236 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, manager Bill Raymond (right) shows some Christmas trees to customer Michael Crough. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

For photo coverage in *The AAN*, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice.

### *The Agawam Federal Credit Union Wishes Everyone A Happy Holiday Season!*

All Of Our Staff And Board Of Directors Wish To Say Thank-You For Making 1999 Such A Wonderful Year For Us.



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Agawam



Let Happiness  
Grow This  
Christmas

## Happy Holidays!!!

### Malone's Garden Center

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**Spotlight On Business - continued...****Legal  
Memo**

by  
**Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.**  
546 Springfield St., F.H.  
(413) 786-9454



**Medical Malpractice  
Failure To Diagnose Breast Cancer**

The plaintiff, age 43, had a baseline mammogram in 1992 that was negative and another one in 1994 that was read and interpreted by the defendant radiologist as negative. Approximately nine months later, the plaintiff felt a lump in her left breast.

A repeat mammogram done in 1995 showed an area suspicious for malignancy in the left breast. She underwent a biopsy in 1995 and shortly thereafter learned that she was pregnant. The plaintiff underwent a lumpectomy, followed by a mastectomy, and began chemotherapy treatment after the second trimester of her pregnancy. The plaintiff was found to be at Stage 1 with no lymph node involvement. She gave birth to a healthy baby girl in early 1996. She has made a good recovery and has had no recurrence of her cancer.

The plaintiff alleged that had the cancer been appropriately diagnosed in 1994, she probably would have required only a lumpectomy rather than a mastectomy and that any chemotherapy treatment would not have coincided with her pregnancy.

The defendant claimed that the calcifications evident on the mammogram study were not otherwise suggestive of malignancy. The defendant's experts were expected to testify that the defendant appropriately read and interpreted the mammogram study and that the diagnosis of breast cancer could not have been made as of summer of 1994.

They were further expected to argue that there was no delay in the diagnosis of the plaintiff's breast cancer, and that even if her cancer had been diagnosed earlier, the treatment, including mastectomy and chemotherapy, and her prognosis would likely have been the same.

The case was settled for \$250,000.

**Let Us Help You Decorate...**

**BOB MORIN**, a friend of the Stepanik family, displays just a few of the Christmas plants and wreaths that are available at **Richard Stepanik & Sons Farm Stand**, 1039 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

\*\*\*  
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in local  
goods and  
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check our  
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wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and best wishes for a happy and  
healthy New Year!*

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*Come And Enjoy Our  
Display Of Lights*



## Spotlight On Business - continued...



**COMMON SENSE**  
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**Raymond Rose**  
THE PIONEER GROUP

### Can You Buy A House With No Money?

Typically, one of the biggest barriers to owning a home is raising the funds necessary for the down payment. I have met with hundreds of individuals and families that believe that buying a home (with no money down) was some type of gimmick ... however, there are currently a wide variety of special loan programs now available for both first-time buyers and move-up buyers which require little or no money down...

- **VA Loans** ... offer 100 percent financing. The homebuyer must be (must have been) a veteran of the Armed Forces with an honorable discharge. Also, individuals in the Guards or Reserves with a minimum of six years of service also qualify.

- **Rural Housing Program** ... offers 100 percent financing. The federal government offers this program to individuals and families that are looking to live in the suburbs.

- **GE Cash Saves Plus** ... offers 100 percent financing. The homebuyer must have good credit.

- **Fresh Start Program** ... offers 100 percent financing. An FHA Program with assistance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Less than perfect credit is acceptable.

- **FHS Loan Program** ... offers 97 percent financing. Family members can "gift" the down payment to the buyers.

Also, in most all cases, the closing costs can be "rolled into" the mortgage and be paid by the sellers. Thus, in all the cases listed above, a homeowner can literally buy a home without spending any money. Again, this may sound like a gimmick, but my office helps people every day take advantage of these programs.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in determining if you qualify for these programs, simply listen to the recorded info message at 846-0923. All callers will receive a FREE Home Buyers Kit with complete information and a FREE Pre-Qualification Application.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you the best part ... each of these programs offers low fixed interest rates!

Make it a New Year's resolution to stop renting and start owning your own home.

Happy holidays!

#### NEED REAL ESTATE INFORMATION QUICKLY?

Do you want to know what mortgage programs are best for you? Do you want to know what your home is worth? Do you have family and friends who may be interested in buying/selling a home? Do you need assistance in relocating? Would you like information on the prices of homes that have sold in your neighborhood? Simply e-mail your request or call me today!

Raymond Rose is a resident of Agawam, and the Principal of THE PIONEER GROUP, a professional real estate and financial services firm serving home buyers and sellers throughout the area. Comments and questions can be directed to his office (731-6800) or his e-mail (RaymondRose@aol.com). Also, contact him via e-mail to receive his FREE online newsletter, THE PIONEER REPORT-Online. It's filled with enjoyable and informative info helping to "keep life simple." Thanks!

**Pam Savioli**

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(413) 748-7565



### Choose A Realtor...

Real estate agents are licensed by their state to buy and sell property. Most state-licensed agents have completed courses in real estate, real estate law, real estate financing, and listing. Realtors are real estate agents who are members of the National Association of Realtors and are committed to

high standards of professional ethics and integrity.

A Realtor's job is to counsel you through the complex buying process — from making decisions about the style of home to tracking loan application progress. Determining your needs and price range and providing information on communities are just a few of the many services provided by a Realtor.

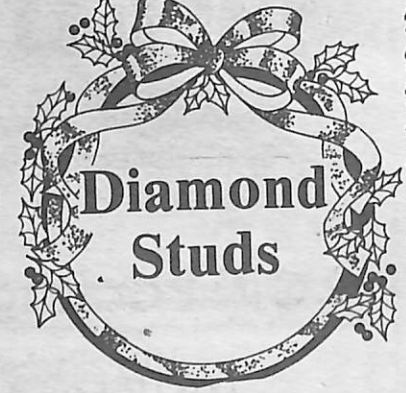
Once you've found your home, your Realtor will help you prepare an offer and negotiate with the seller's agent. From that point on, the Realtor often oversees the mortgage application process, arranges an inspection and necessary repairs, and coordinates work of specialists (attorney, inspectors, etc.). The Realtor puts the pieces together and completes the transaction.

If you are thinking or buying or selling, please call PAM SAVIOLI at (413) 748-7565.

REMEMBER TO PATRONIZE your local businesses!!!

# BLOCK JEWELERS

**SALE!** The Right Gift  
At  
The Right Price! **SALE!**



**299 Walnut Street**

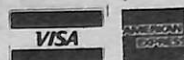
Agawam

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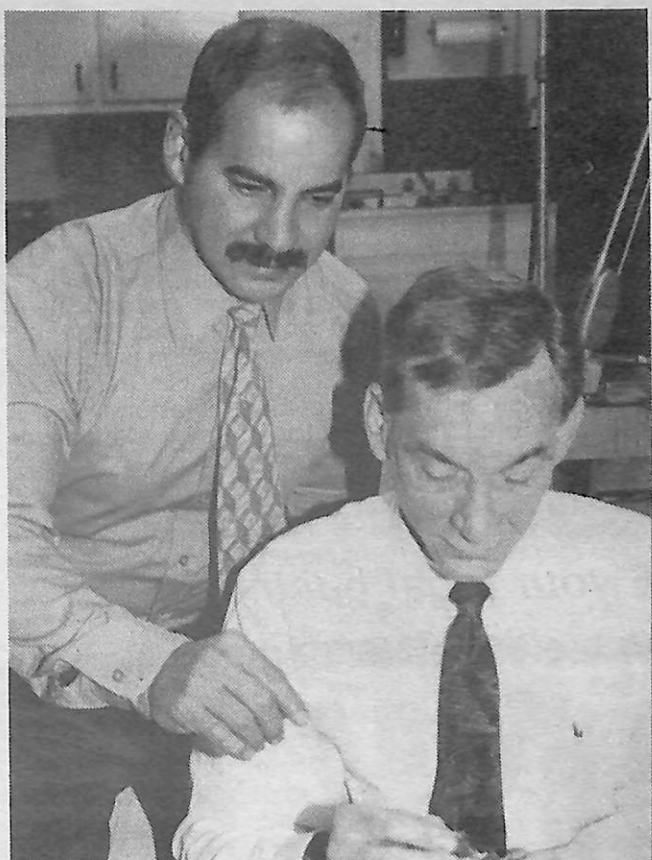
Tue Wed Fri 10am-5pm, Thu noon-7pm  
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## Spotlight On Business - continued...



REPAIR MANAGER MANNY PINEIRO (left) and jeweler John Coutu of Block Jewelers, located at 299 Walnut Street, Agawam. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



IN TOP PHOTO: The staff of Block Jewelers (from left to right) — Manny Pineiro, Alex Baranov, Ellen & Gary Block, John Coutu, Lori Ramirez, and Ivan Romenchenko. IN PHOTO BELOW: Block Jewelers' expanded location at 299 Walnut Street, Agawam, has allowed the business to grow while continuing its 21-year tradition of friendly and excellent service. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

At Its New Location...

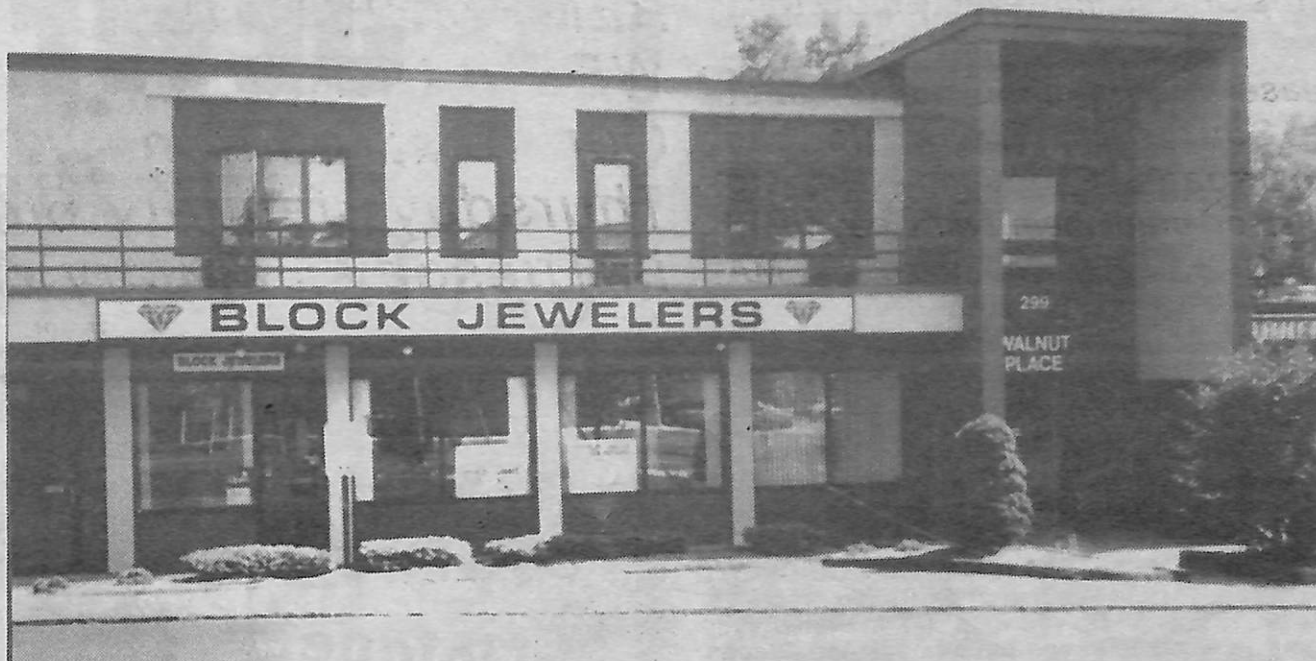
## Revisiting Block Jewelers

by Kathy Shepard  
Feature Editor

Block Jewelers opened in downtown Springfield in 1978 and remained on the corner of Bridge and Main Streets until 1983. From 1983 until 1998, Block Jewelers was located at the South End Bridge Circle in Agawam.

At its new and expanded location at 299 Walnut Street, Agawam, Block has continued to grow, still doing for its customers what it has done all along: "We sell diamonds, gold jewelry, watches, and custom-designed items. One of our greatest strengths is that we are a full-service repair center," explains Gary Block, owner of Block Jewelers.

SEE BLOCK - Page 21...



### ATTITUDES, A DAY SPA

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### MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

An inheritance  
incorruptible and  
undefiled [is] reserved  
in heaven for you.  
— 1 Peter 1:4

As early as 1995, reservations were being made in fashionable hotels and resorts for celebrating New Year's Eve 1999. According to writer Calvin McDowell in *The New York Times*, the London Savoy had by then been twice overbooked. Although the charge for the evening was \$1,000, the Rainbow Room in New York City had a waiting list. So did the Waldorf-Astoria. Reservations were hard to get.

For many people, the end of the 1900s and the dawning of a new millennium brings with it the hope that life will be different. Yet one doesn't have to be endowed with the gift of prophecy to know that life is destined to continue as it was in the last millennium. For example, we can be sure that death will continue to be inescapable. We know that no one today will live to see the year 3000.

Because death is inescapable, we must answer this very thought-provoking and personal question: Have you made sure of your heavenly reservations? It's not too late. You need to put your trust in Jesus Christ now for forgiveness and cleansing of your sin. You then will have a guaranteed reservation for that home in glory (Jn. 14:2), and you can be assured that you'll celebrate with the Lord for all eternity. Make your reservation today! — VCG

*There is a place reserved in heaven  
For all who have believed;  
Eternal life is freely given  
When humbly it's received. — Sper*

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO PLAN FOR ETERNITY.



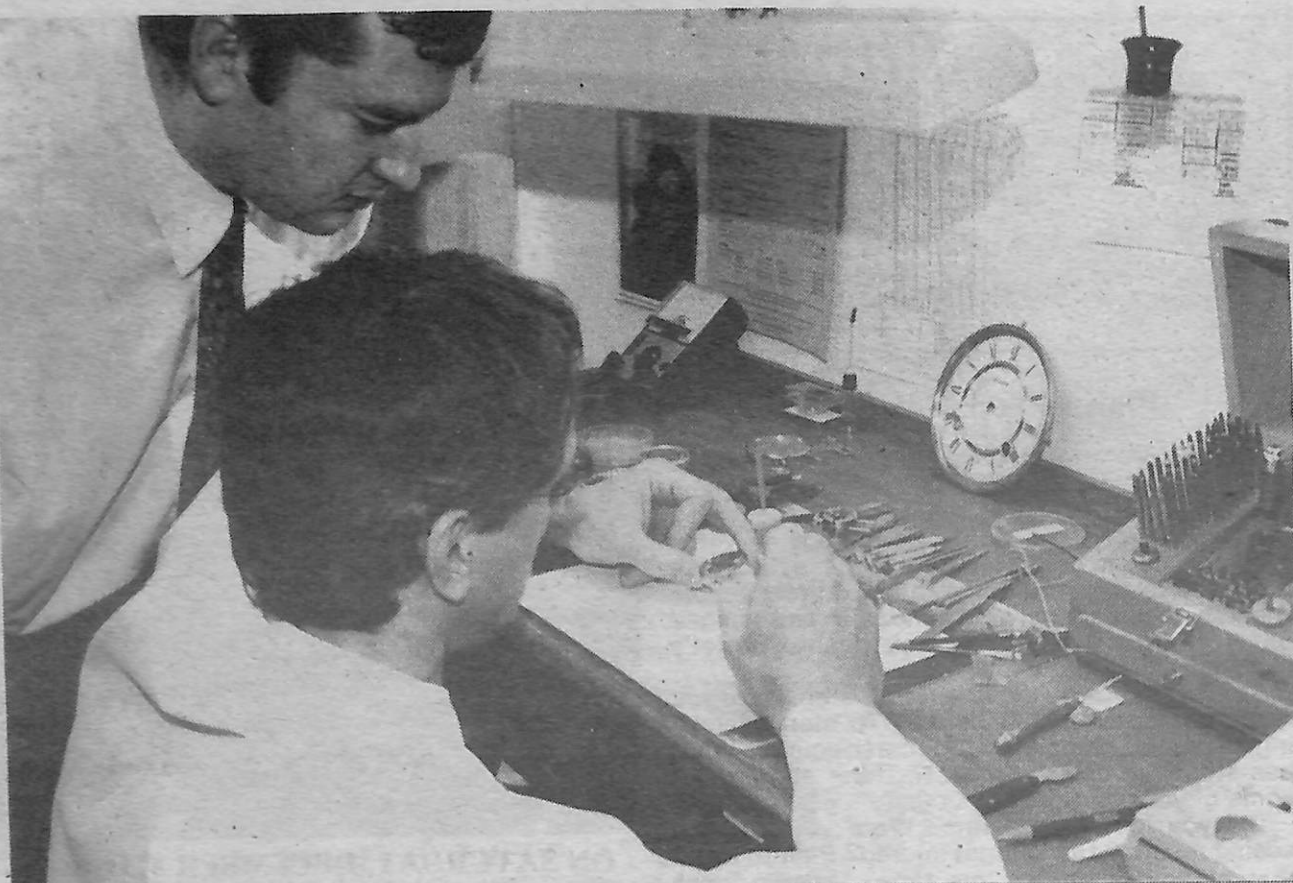
**Spotlight On Business - continued...****BLOCK - from Page 20...**

There are three full-time bench jewelers and two full-time watch- and clock-makers. All work is done on the premises for both local and national customers. "Combined, we have over 100 years of experience," says Block. "The most important focus is service to our customers. A sale is never really final here. Checking, cleaning, and adjustments are free."

Gary Block believes that not being located in a mall and offering easy access and better prices because of the lower overhead have contributed to the company's 21 years of success in business. "We have become a foundation in the community. People come in here and see the same faces, and that builds trust. The same customers keep coming back," he told us.

Medic-alert engraving is another of its many services. The staff includes Manny Pineiro, who has been repair manager for 15 years; John Coutu, jeweler, 11 years; Alex Baranov, master watchmaker, six years; Ivan Romenchenko, watchmaker, three years; and Lori Ramirez, office manager and data entry. Ellen Block, Gary's wife, provides service to customers as well.

"Every day is sale day. We have ongoing promotions in the store and are able to do that because of our location and low overhead," Gary Block says. "This is the place to shop for Christmas. There's a gift for everyone here in our store."



IVAN ROMENCHENKO (left) and ALEX BARANOV at work on a watch at Block Jewelers, 299 Walnut Street, Agawam. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

**REMEMBER, WE DO NOT PUBLISH BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S:**  
Our next edition will be published on Thursday, January 6th, and the deadline is Tuesday, January 4th, at 12:00 noon.

\* \* \* \* \*



*Happy Holidays*  
from  
**Dr. Tami Nelson**  
and Family



Dr. Tami Nelson  
Hampden County Chiropractic  
850 Springfield Street  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030  
786-4820



Richard W. Gallerani, OD  
Julianne Rapalus Gallerani, OD

**Agawam Eye  
Associates**

**Complete Family Eye Care**

656 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills

**789-2106**



# For Your Health



## Fitness Tips...

by  
Carmela Kirk, R.N.  
Fitness Director  
Fitness First

### Plan If You Mean It...

Resolution time! It is that time again. We see everyone deciding to get healthier, stronger, and more fit. We also see some people lose their momentum very quickly.

I would like to help a few people make their plan and stick to it. I would like to help a few people that would have otherwise jumped in and jumped out, to follow through on their desire. So let's make a plan.

Planning is a very important first step. Have you made this commitment before? To start exercising, to get healthier is a very smart decision. What has stopped you in the past? Think about what some of your barriers have been.

Did you lose momentum? Were you just not seeing results? Did you get injured? Plan to avoid that particular barrier this time. Make a clear plan.

Begin slowly and realistically. Do not decide to come to the gym seven days a week. Do not plan on an unrealistic weight loss. Three to four times a week is plenty. Spend about one to 1½ hours and get out. Too much time involved will lead to burn-out.

If one of your goals is weight loss, only try to lose about two pounds per week and no more. Your body can only metabolize that amount of fat and you don't want to lose anything else. Fast weight loss will only result in a fast return of the weight the minute you are off track.

Try very hard to not jump into a workout program. If you want to run two to three miles a day, start by walking this same amount a few times per week. Then, proceed to intervals of jogging during your walk. Slowly, you will begin to run more and walk less. Soon, you will be running more than two or three miles and will have exceeded your goals. That's progress!!!

When it comes to lifting weights, start light. You do not need to be sore and immobile after every workout. You do not have to be exhausted after every workout. In the beginning, it is real important not to overdo it; this will lead to injury, and injury will be your barrier this year.

Take a few minutes to think about what you really want out of your new exercise program. What do you want? If you are not too knowledgeable about fitness, ask a professional. (You may want to ask this person what makes them a professional; there are a lot of people that love to give advice.)

Be sure you get accurate, current information. Proceed slowly. Results will keep you motivated, and a good plan will lead to results.

\* \* \* \* \*

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

\* \* \* \* \*

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## Ninth Annual Christmas Seal® Ball



ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, at the Oaks in Agawam, the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts held its ninth annual Christmas Seal® Ball. Pictured above are Calos Alvarez (far left - Executive Director of the American Lung Association) with Mrs. Sari Alvarez, and Jeff Seyler (Program Director) with Mrs. Abney Seyler. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



THE CHRISTMAS SEAL® BALL featured a silent auction and a holiday dinner, followed by dancing to the band "Passport." Among the attendees were (from left to right) Pat Sakellis, Dr. Tom Morrier, Gail & Robert Longo, Irene Thomas, Bruno Antico, Rene Thomas, and Paula Antico. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Christmas Greetings  
From

Sammy Septic

786-2554 / 1-860-668-4301

Louise And Sammy DiDonato



*For Your Health - continued...*

## Ed Borgatti Actively Involved With Easter Seals Campaigns

Edward Borgatti, owner of E.B's Restaurant in Agawam, is chairing the Springfield area 2000 Easter Seals Campaign, according to General Chair Alison A. Coady.

Working with Borgatti to raise money to fund Easter Seals services that help people with disabilities expand their independence are: Kay Buoniconti, West Springfield; Deborah Elias, Agawam; Richard Hanchett, Agawam; Kate Parker, Chicopee; and John Walczak, Holyoke.

"One of the good things about raising money for Easter Seals is that the money funds direct services for children and adults with disabilities — right here in the community," said Borgatti. "Our disabled neighbors find that Easter Seals programs really help them live more independently and participate more in community life."

Easter Seals services include technology for independence, physical and occupational therapy, adapted swim programs, summer camp, speech therapy, support groups for people recovering from strokes, vocational rehabilitation, after-school programs, equipment loan, advocacy and information and referral services.

In addition, it has been announced that Borgatti is serving on the 2000 Relay for Independence for Easter Seals committee, according to Chairman Steve Grogan. The event will be held at Brandeis University, June 3-4, 2000. More than 1,000 Easter Seals supporters and their families are expected to participate.

Sponsored by WB56 FamilyFirst, the Relay for Independence brings together teams of co-workers, families and friends to help their disabled neighbors by raising funds to support Easter Seals services.

For 24 hours, teams walk, run or wheel around the track at Brandeis in two-mile stretches. Between turns on the track, team members and their families participate in an array of activities including basketball, volleyball, softball and tennis tournaments, lots of great food, music, games, and plenty of activities for children.

Borgatti is working with a committee of Massachusetts business leaders planning the Relay for Independence. "Last year, we raised \$205,500 with 37 teams," Borgatti said. "This year, we are aiming even higher."

The June 3rd-4th event will be Easter Seals' eighth Relay for Independence.

All money raised by the relay will fund Easter Seals services that help men, women, and children with disabilities expand their independence, maintain their dignity, and participate actively in family and community life.

To find out how to field a team, call 781-622-1433, or visit the Easter Seals web site: [www.eastersealsma.org](http://www.eastersealsma.org).

*Meeting Slated For January 4th...*

## Mercy Hosp. Support Group For Children Of Cancer Patients

Learning that your parent has cancer is difficult for children of all ages. But discovering you're not alone and sharing your feelings and concerns with others in the same situation can help.

Children of area cancer patients have that opportunity, through a support group which meets monthly at Mercy Hospital. The group's next meeting will take place Monday, January 4th, 7:00 p.m., in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew St.

Meetings are led by skilled facilitators from Mercy Hospital's Pastoral Care Department and are free of charge. Persons of all ages are welcome.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

Mercy Hospital is a member of the Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS). The SPHS' member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

The SPHS is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida.

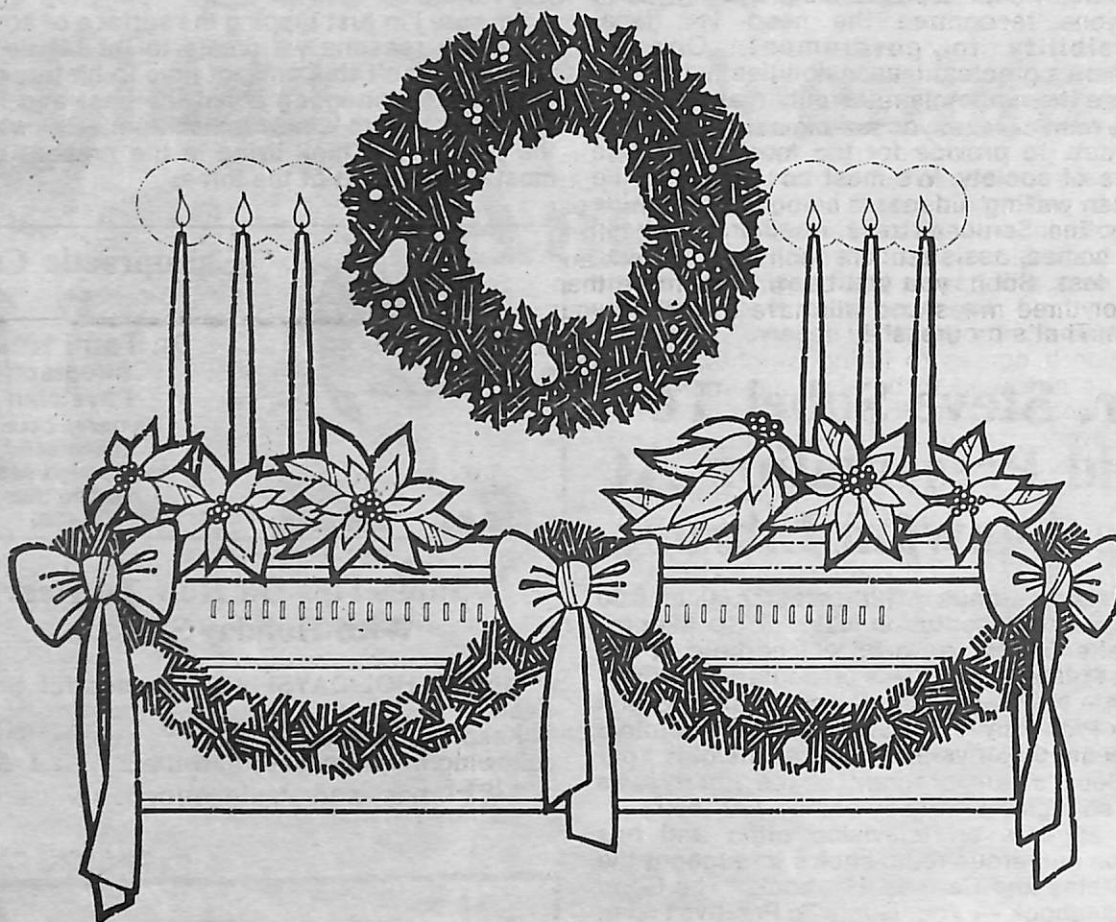
*For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads*

## At The Christmas Seal® Ball...



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mario Sakellis (Executive Director of the American Lung Association), Brenda Garton of TV-22, Leila Mudawar (chairperson of the ball), and Ed Sunter (president of the American Lung Association). Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

## Holiday Greetings And Happy New Year



The Keenan Family Wishes  
All The Wonderful Families Of  
Agawam A Healthy And Safe 2000.

*It Has Been An Honor To  
Serve You Again This Past Year.*

*From*

**State Representative  
Dan Keenan**



## For Your Health - continued...

## Melconian Supports Increasing Rates For Nursing Homes In MA

Senate Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) submitted testimony to the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy recently in support of increasing rates for nursing homes across the state.

"The Governor's proposed rate increase of 2.6 percent is completely inadequate," said Melconian. "The administration must set a higher rate because after years of underfunding, nursing homes are on the brink of disaster."

The Senator noted that by every measure Massachusetts nursing homes are in serious trouble. "One in seven nursing homes are now bankrupt. Over the past five years, the Medicare cost of living rate has been increased an average of only 2.6 percent while over that same period, actual costs have increased almost 4.0 percent annually. Only 25 percent of homes actually receive Medicaid rates that cover their costs (down from 59 percent in 1992). In the Arthur Anderson 1998-1999 Guide to the Nursing Home Industry, Massachusetts ranked dead last in profitability and length of time for payment of care provided."

The Senator also expressed concern over the fate of current residents of nursing homes. "It is always seniors who pay when we do not fund nursing homes adequately. They have less trained staff to deal with their complex medical needs. They get a few of the small amenities that make their final days easier. Ultimately, though, the greatest injustice is that they have no one available to simply listen and provide the support and love that we all hope for in our waning years."

"Everyone recognizes the need for fiscal responsibility in government. One of government's greatest responsibilities is to wisely manage the money that the public allocates to us in the form of taxes. At the same time, we also have a duty to provide for the most vulnerable members of society. We must not return to the days when getting old meant being pushed aside and forgotten. Senior citizens, whether they are in nursing homes, assisted care facilities, or living on their own, still have a great deal to contribute to society and we must treat them with the respect and dignity that they deserve."

## Dr. Steve Sobel To Hold Presentation At The Agawam Library

On Tuesday, January 12th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., a special presentation featuring speaker extraordinaire Dr. Steve Sobel will be held at the Agawam Public Library. This presentation is titled "If You Are Not Laughing, You Are Not Living! A Special Presentation To Decrease Terminal Seriousness, Cope With Stress, And Uplift Your Life!" (Sobel's last program at the library was packed, so register early by calling 789-1550.)

Sobel appears on television often and has spoken on numerous radio shows throughout the United States and Canada. His book, "The Good Times Handbook — Your Guide To Positive Living And An Exciting Life," has been a hallmark of humor, attitude, and living fully.

Sobel has been a featured speaker at many company conferences in the area. Among them are Mass. Mutual, Kollmorgen Corp., Tubed Products, VNA, CVS, General Electric, Somers schools, Suffield schools, Harvard University, Town of Enfield, JFK Middle School students, Longmeadow Flowers, Williams Distributing Corp., Maybury Material Handling, Longmeadow Council on Aging, Hartford Courant, Connecticut Department of Corrections, American Saw and Mfg., and many others.

You will have an evening of joy, stress relief, renewed perspective (also known as a major "attitude adjustment"), and simply coming away feeling better about what lies ahead, on and off the job. Sobel's web site can be previewed at [www.drstevesobel.com](http://www.drstevesobel.com).

Join Sobel for a delightful evening that will not soon be forgotten, as he has a special way of influencing people to live fully and give it their best.

As Ziggy the cartoon character says, "RELAX, otherwise, you might die all tensed up!"

\* \* \*

**"For Your Health" is a regular feature of The Agawam Advertiser News...**

\* \* \*



### "Let's Talk About It"

by Dan Pender  
Marriage &  
Family Therapist  
P.O. Box 449  
Agawam, MA 01001  
(413) 789-4460

### Looking Forward Past The Present Moment...

My assumption is that for many of you reading today, the Christmas holiday was probably a very busy time. Even if you celebrate different holidays, you probably witnessed others you know trying to keep up with the fast pace of Christmas. Many of you are probably reading this after all the wrapping paper has been cleaned up and the toys and gifts received have had their moments of newness.

What, if anything, has changed with all this celebrating? Was the celebrating just about doing it the way it's always been done? Or are you one of those able to look past this holiday toward next weekend's upcoming festivities?

What happens to us as a society, community, family, and as individuals when we don't slow down enough to wonder? As one friend told me when I spoke to him about this idea of slowing down to wonder, he commented, "Who's got time for that?"

I wonder if the prevailing sentiment out there is, "I'll slow down after the holidays," or, "I'll slow down just after I finish this or that," or, "After the kids are out of the house, then I'll start living the way I want."

I'm sure I'm just tapping the surface of some of the many reasons we create to inhibit us from wondering. Isn't this present time in history about wondering? Wondering about the past and future as we enter into a new millennium? But what of the present? I think living in the present is the most challenging of the three.

How we long to fill our lives with past and future conversation. These can keep us at arm's length from living in the present, which is both a difficult and different type of conversation.

Have you experienced this difference and difficulty? Where real intimacy co-exists with another person and real visibility of who we are is an essential component of the connection, whatever the content of the conversation happens to be.

Present living, in my estimation, is about being vulnerable to another person. It is about facing the challenge of issues, such as trust. Most often-times we can't meet these challenges as we would like. I believe it is about valuing the quality of living that slows down enough to wonder how to be in the present to face into these challenges, as best as possible, without moving past the present toward the future.

In my experience, relationships that contain high levels of conflict tend to focus on the past and future, **not the present**. This inability to focus on the present helps maintain the tension. It can be very scary to face the present for yourself and with another person, group, or organization.

The direct implication of all this **present living** is that I will somehow have to change who I am in relationship with you, which will most likely be very uncomfortable.

Soon the year 2000 will be upon us and this, too, can be an opportunity to simply look backwards and/or into the future. My hope is that we not miss the chance to wonder in the present to see how life can inform us today, so that we don't find ourselves looking back someday saying, "Who's got time for that?"

The complexity of present living.

\* \* \*

"Let's Talk about it" is a regular weekly feature from Dan Pender, MA., M.F.T. Marriage & Family Therapist. Dan maintains a private practice in Agawam, MA. He is a Clinical member of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy. He is also a local professional Church educator and can be reached by e-mail (AOL screen name: dpmft449) or P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 789-4460. Please respond with your feedback, relationship questions and topics and "Let Talk about it."



### Chiropractic Care by

Dr. Tami Nelson  
Chiropractic  
Physician  
Hampden County  
Chiropractic  
850 Springfield St.  
Feeding Hills  
786-4820

### Some Tips On How To Deal With Holiday Stress...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! It's a wonderful time of year.

Keep the holidays happy and healthy with the following stress-release activities:

- S-T-R-E-T-C-H.
- Enjoy silence.

- Shine, even if the sun doesn't.
- Pay a debt.
- Feed the birds.
- Lose a pound.
- Accept a compliment.
- Give away something you don't use.
- Sort through things.
- Daydream.
- Walk to the nearest park.
- Rent a classic.
- Share a task.
- Break a habit, just for today.
- Really look at the sky.
- Resist the temptation to criticize.
- Take a picture.
- Get some exercise.
- Talk to a houseplant.
- Do one thing you'll be proud of.
- Bake bread.

'Tis the season to be jolly. Enjoy and happy holidays!

## ... when living in the present really matters.

Read more about this in today's **FOR YOUR HEALTH** column.

## Individual, Couple & Family Therapy

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Daniel Pender, MA., M.F.T.  
Marriage & Family Therapist

OFFICE AGAWAM, MA

IN: (413) 789-4460

e-mail address: [dpmft449@aol.com](mailto:dpmft449@aol.com)





*For Your Health - continued...*

*From SAFE KIDS Coalition...*

## Kitchen Safety Tips When Cooking Holiday Treats For The Kids

Whether decorating cookies or stirring gravy over a stovetop, children need close adult supervision in and around the kitchen during the holidays and every day, warns the Western Massachusetts SAFE KIDS Coalition (headquartered at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital).

"It's very easy to become caught up in the holiday festivities and doing things as a family," said Shirley LaRoche, R.N., coordinator of the local chapter of SAFE KIDS.

"Helping out with cooking can be a wonderful learning experience for children, but it also can be dangerous," she added.

The Western Massachusetts SAFE KIDS Coalition recommends the following tips for keeping children safe as they learn to help out in the kitchen this holiday season:

- Be sure you've taken essential safety steps before introducing a child to cooking, such as having a fire extinguisher nearby and posting emergency numbers near the phone.

- Never leave a child unattended in the kitchen.

- Never hold a child while cooking.

- Put pans on back burners and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.

- Use caution when heating food and liquids in the microwave. Supervise your child when he or she is near or using a microwave, and never let a young child (under ages 10 to 12) remove heated items from the microwave.

- Make sure you and your children wear close-fitting clothing when cooking. Never leave cooking food unattended — it is the number one cause of home fires.

- Place hot foods and liquids away from edges of counters and tables.

- Pay particular attention to items sitting on tablecloths or placemats so that children cannot pull hot food or liquid down and scald themselves.

- Unplug appliance cords and keep them tied up and out of children's reach.

### AGE-APPROPRIATE TASKS FOR CHILDREN

Since each child is different, it is important for parents and caregivers to consider the developmental level and abilities of their children when assigning them kitchen duties.

Generally, children under age 10 don't fully understand what danger means and therefore should not use the stove, electrical appliances, sharp utensils, or handle hot dishes. Younger children can begin helping in the kitchen with basics like washing vegetables and fruits, or mixing foods that don't require sharp knives, appliances, or heat.

The Western Massachusetts SAFE KIDS Coalition (headquartered at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital) recommends that parents review the following suggested activities and age guidelines to help keep the kitchen a fun, safe place for the family.

*With close adult supervision, children...*

*Over age five can...*

- Stir ingredients together in a bowl.

- Rinse foods under cold water.

- Use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes in dough.

- Use a butter knife or plastic knife to spread peanut butter, or slice soft cheese.

- Squeeze garlic from a garlic press.

*Over age 10 can...*

- Use electrical kitchen appliances such as a blender, food processor, electric mixer, microwave, or toaster oven.

*Ages 12 and up can:*

- Chop or slice with a paring knife.

- Use the stovetop to turn burners on and off and select oven temperature.

- Flip pancakes on a hot griddle.

- Place a tray of cookies in the oven.

- Peel vegetables.

- Use an electric can opener.

- Shred cheese with a hand grater.

*Children over age 14 can take on more responsibility in the kitchen and can handle tasks such as:*

- Operating the stovetop without adult supervision.

- Draining cooked spaghetti into a colander.

- Removing a tray of cookie from the oven.

For more information about child safety, call LaRoche in the SAFE KIDS office at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital at 794-5434.

\* \* \*

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you for your cooperation...

\* \* \*

## Breast Cancer Support Group To Meet In January At Mercy Hospital In Springfield

The Breast Cancer Support Group, sponsored by the Women's Pavilion at Mercy Hospital, will meet January 4th and 18th, 5:30-7:00 p.m., in the Women's Pavilion, 299 Carew St.

The group is open to women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer or who have experienced mastectomy and other breast surgery. Family and friends are welcome to attend and share their experiences and concerns.

For more information, call the Women's Pavilion, (413) 748-9080.

Mercy Hospital is a member of the Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS). The SPHS' member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

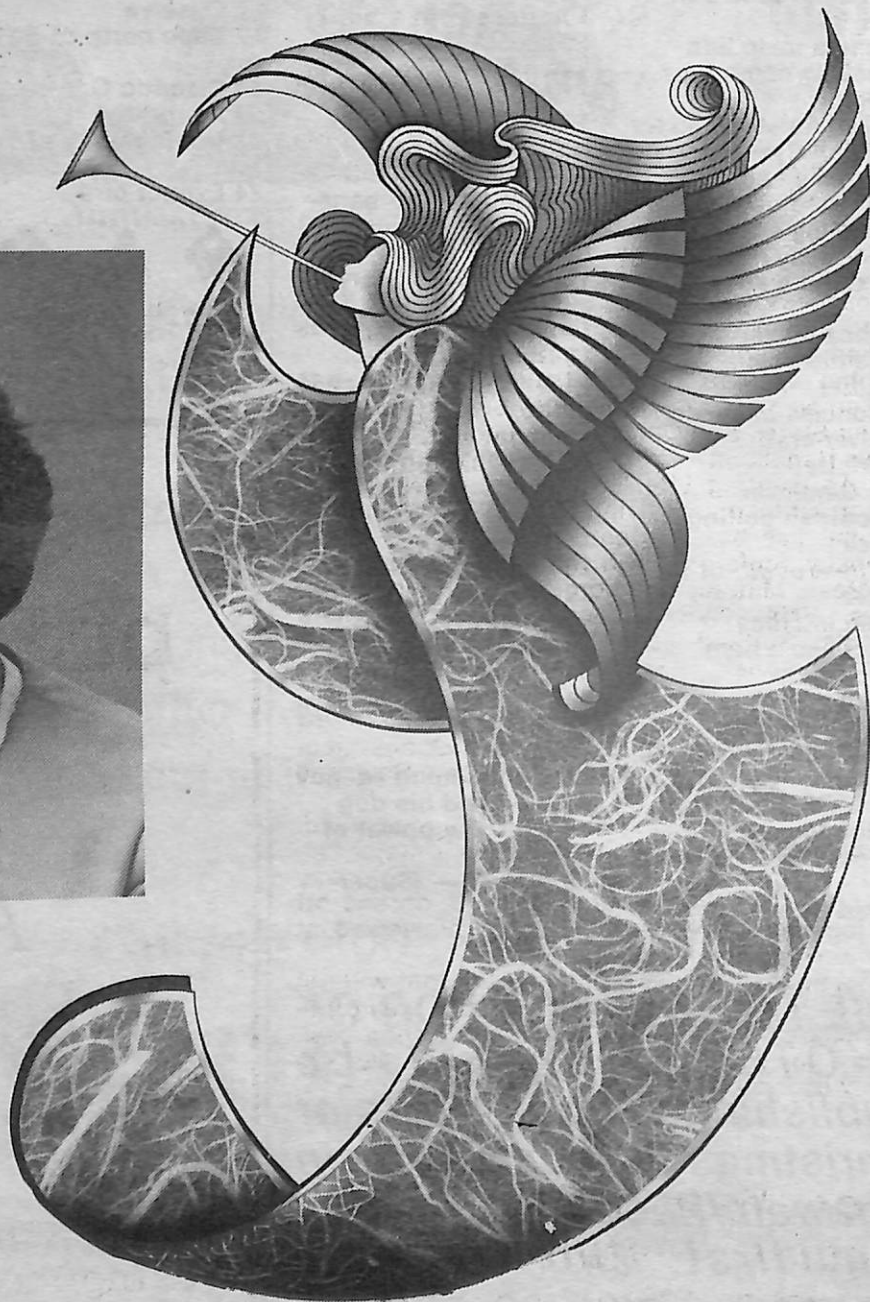
The SPHS is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida.

\* \* \* \* \*

REMEMBER, WE DO NOT PUBLISH BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S: Our next edition will be published on Thursday, January 6th, and the deadline is Tuesday, January 4th, at 12:00 noon.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Joyous Holidays From State Senator Linda J. Melconian And Staff

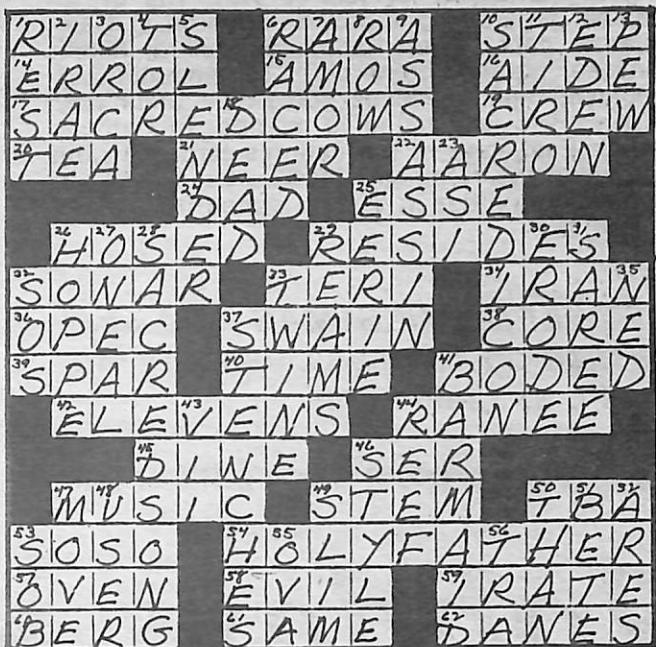






# Arts

## Last Week's Solution...



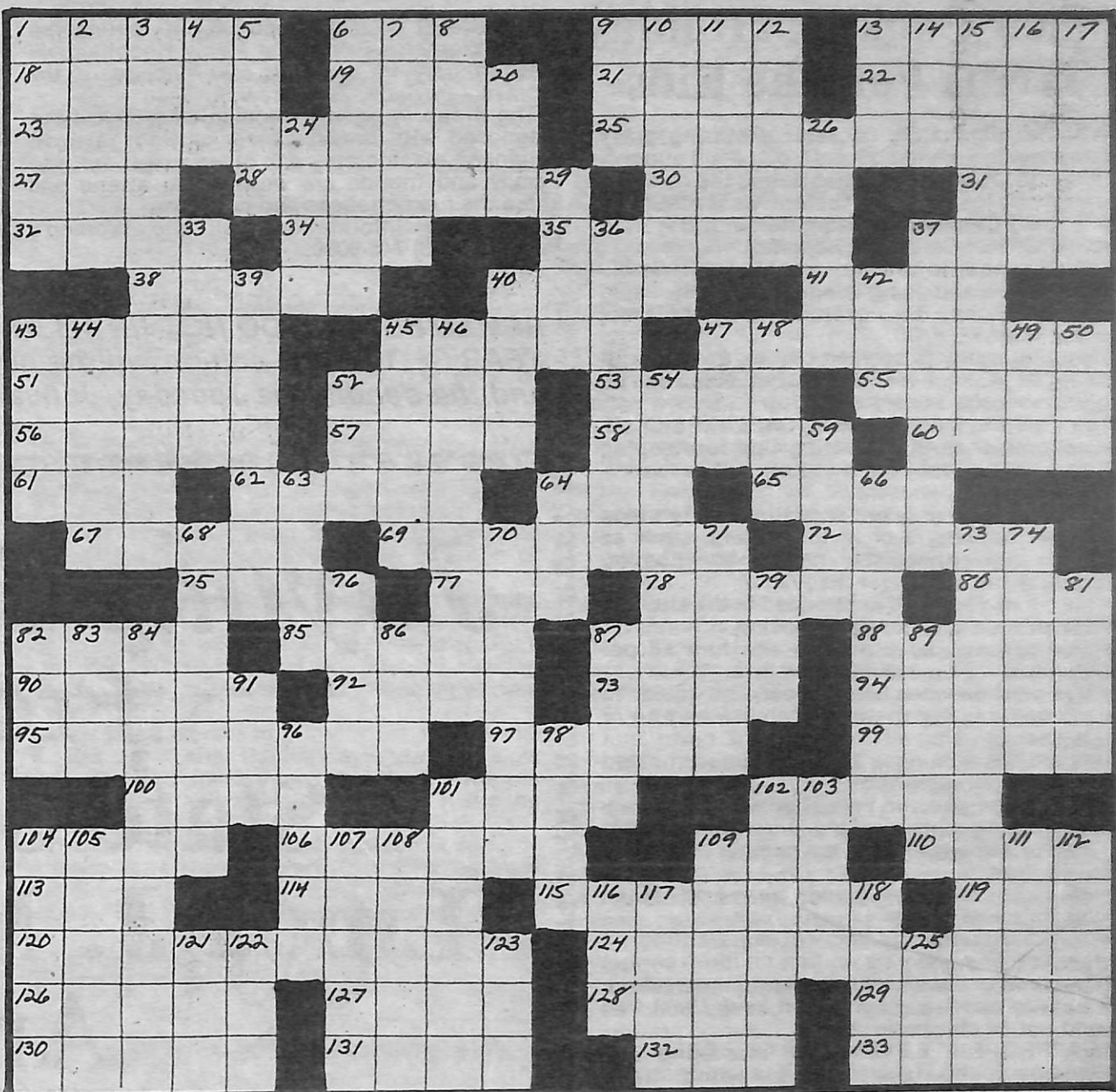
### ACROSS

- 1 Actress Lombard
- 6 Insane
- 9 Sweet potatoes
- 13 — marry a...
- 18 Divert in a way
- 19 Bulb lighter?
- 21 List ender
- 22 What the Civil War preserved
- 23 Obese band leader?
- 25 Actress for the distance?
- 27 Ethiopia (abbr.)
- 28 Rader catch
- 30 Trig function
- 31 Fib
- 32 Delicate tastes
- 34 Transgress
- 35 Landed property
- 37 Half — (small one)
- 38 Lulus
- 40 Oasis fruit
- 41 Director Schary
- 43 Sci-fi film classic
- 45 Put away
- 47 Underground conduits
- 51 Like a male lion
- 52 Deadly bomb type
- 53 Ogler
- 55 Fred Astaire's sister
- 56 Nolan Ryan once
- 57 Verne's captain
- 58 Hooded coat
- 60 Dueling sword
- 61 Formerly named
- 62 Extend a subscription
- 64 Shea player
- 65 Edible bulb
- 67 Attire
- 69 Concise in speech
- 72 River craft
- 75 Bristle
- 77 A Gershwin
- 78 Scottish golfing mecca
- 80 Cheer south of the border
- 82 Aid in crime
- 85 Act like a ham
- 87 Solar disc
- 88 Adage
- 90 Destroyed
- 92 Berman in "Casa-blanca"
- 93 French islands
- 94 Hen for one
- 95 Veered out of control
- 97 Bad throat

### DOWN

- 99 Call forth
- 100 Both (prefix)
- 101 So-so grades
- 102 Fall flower
- 104 Toy gun ammo
- 106 Wanderers
- 109 Every bit
- 110 Luge
- 113 Tokyo once
- 114 Actress Moran
- 115 Sot
- 119 Lawyers' org.
- 120 Comic who vends?
- 124 Wintery actress?
- 126 Palmer with an army
- 127 Acrid to the taste
- 128 Terrace (abbr.)
- 129 Type of auto
- 130 Fortification
- 131 Noun-forming suffix
- 132 Atlantic flyer
- 133 Vegas gobblers?

## Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



- 46 Actor who bides his time?
- 47 Essen's land
- 48 Torah containers
- 49 Eel in Paree
- 50 Observe
- 52 Cape north of Boston
- 54 Diacritic Q.B.?
- 59 Air (prefix)
- 63 Noble family of Ferrara
- 64 Extinct bird

- 66 Railroad track overlap
- 68 Holds in high regard
- 70 Wrinkled
- 71 Inch along
- 73 Singer for the Seminole state?
- 74 Streamlined
- 76 French friend
- 79 Light switch positions
- 81 To be on the Somme
- 82 Rainbow

- 83 Cote bleat
- 84 Weighty poet?
- 86 On in years
- 87 Tunes
- 89 Roof overhangs
- 91 Coming out girl
- 96 Baseball teams
- 98 Try out
- 101 Field workers
- 102 Herb of music
- 103 Oscar Madison?
- 104 Actor Romero
- 105 Dote on

- 107 Declaim
- 108 La Scala's home
- 109 Hebrew lyres
- 111 German channel (WWII)
- 112 Daybreaks
- 116 Make a choice
- 117 — no lady
- 118 Dick Tracy's lady
- 121 Singer Zadora
- 122 Urge
- 123 Canonized femme
- 125 Scottish self



Happy Holidays  
And  
Happy New Year

From  
Peter & Bruno Parrotta  
And Family  
And Everyone At



## Parrotta's Auto Sales & Service

Thank-You For All Of Your Support In 1999

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The Best In Service For Foreign And Domestic Cars  
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DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will be publishing various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in our first two January issues.

\*\*\*





### Timely Tips On How To Manage Your Finances

by Sue & Charlie Alvanos  
Personal Financial Advisors  
American Express  
534-3883

#### Starting A Business? Consider These Financing Tips...

Starting your own business offers a variety of potential rewards, but it also requires planning, persistence, and hard work. And it usually takes a lot of money, too.

Your new enterprise not only needs cash to start up, it also must have financing for ongoing operations until the business can turn a profit. This fact is highlighted by U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) statistics, which show that the biggest reason new ventures fail is inadequate financing.

So how can you avoid becoming one of these statistics? By accurately estimating your start-up costs, realistically planning ongoing expenses, and creatively seeking financing, you can buoy your business until it can float on its own.

**Assessing start-up costs.** Your business' start-up costs will depend on the type of operation it is. A marketing consultant working from home will have much lower initial expenses than, say, a retailer who needs a store, displays, inventory, and employees.

At a minimum, most new ventures must pay for telephones, computers, printers, fax machines, insurance, attorney's and accountant's fees, and business filing and license costs.

Other initial expenses may include renting or buying a building, remodeling and furnishing the building to suit your operation, inventory, initial employee hiring costs, signage, advertising, and more.

**Budgeting ongoing expenses.** Of course, your expenses won't end with the start-up costs. Your business will have ongoing expenses such as telephone and other utilities, transportation, wages, salaries and benefits, marketing and advertising, postage and shipping, loan payments, taxes, insurance, and inventory replenishment. Also, unless your spouse has a separate income or you have another job, you'll need to cover your living expenses as well.

By adding your start-up costs and three to six months ongoing expenses, you'll know how much cash you'll need to support your business before it can sustain itself. Estimating your early cash needs accurately — and having enough money to make a positive first impression — can greatly increase your chances of success.

**Finding financing.** Once you know how much money you need to launch your operation and keep it going for a period, you can look for financing. Sources may include any combination of the following:

- **Personal savings.** Most entrepreneurs use their own money to finance at least part of their business costs. If you do, remember to set aside an emergency fund of six or more months' personal expenses in case you need it later.

- **Loans from family or friends.** This source may be easier to access than a bank, but the amount of money available from family or friends is likely to be limited. Also, there is the potential for a strained relationship if problems occur with the business.

- **Traditional bank loans.** These may include long-term mortgages for buildings, one- to five-year term loans for equipment or other large expenses, or lines of short-term credit for ongoing expenses. To obtain bank financing, you'll have to provide a complete business plan and show that you have experience related to your new venture. You'll also have to provide collateral to secure your loan, such as your home or other personal assets.

- **Government-insured loans.** If you can't qualify for conventional bank financing, you may be eligible for a government business loan. A number of federal, state, and local agencies offer such assistance, the largest program being through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA guarantees loans up to \$750,000 made by banks and other private lenders to small business. For details, contact your local SBA office, call 1-800-827-5722, or visit the agency's web-site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

- **Supplier credit.** You may be able to obtain equipment and inventory from suppliers on credit, thus reducing your need for cash up front.

- **Venture capital.** Some companies and wealthy individuals specialize in providing financing for businesses with the potential for exceptional returns. If such a firm decides to work with you, it will require a share of your business' equity and considerable control over business decisions.

## Artwork Of Kim Saffer To Be On Display In January At The Agawam Public Library

The Agawam Public Library is pleased to announce an exhibit of the artwork of Kim Saffer in the gallery of the Agawam Public Library for the month of January.

Saffer is a local landscape painter who employs a variety of media, including oils, acrylics, watercolors, pen and ink, colored pencil, and serigraphy. After attending Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, MA, she returned to the area and began her career as a graphic artist, and has worked in screen printing professionally since 1975.

At the age of 15, Saffer received a scholastic art

award for a woodblock print. She has exhibited her work locally with the Agawam Community Artists, along with donating her paintings to the Annual Alumni Art Auction for the scholarship fund of Montserrat College.

Her work is mainly in an open-air style and seeks to bring the beauty of nature indoors. This exhibit shows works spanning her career from 1970-1999.

The gallery hours for viewing the artwork are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.*

# Get Richer Quicker.

One year to be exact.

# 5.25%

Annual Percentage Yield\*

You get a great yield when you invest \$1,000 in a one year Certificate of Deposit at Westbank. Act now, since the yield will only be available for a limited time. For more information on this special offer or any other investment choices, call or visit your nearest Westbank office today.

Call 747-1400

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PARK WEST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes interest remains on deposit for one year at stated rate of interest. Minimum balance to open and earn APY is stated in this ad. Interest compounded and credited to the account monthly. APY is accurate as of 8/19/99. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Deposits are F.D.I.C. insured to \$100,000.

MEMBER F.D.I.C.





## Meet The Sales Associates Of The New Suburban West Regional Office



Tracey Black



Siri Lewis-Scully



Priscilla Harman



Beverly Bridges



Pat Mika



Ivy Harman-Balch



W. Lynn Boss



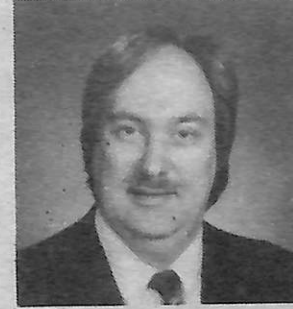
Peggy Raposa

Sue Berselli  
748-6149Diane Drewnowski  
748-6198Chet Kasperek  
748-6172Peg Lis-Barone  
747-4919Kathy Neilsen  
748-8821Frank Pinney  
748-6122Kathy Rose  
748-6137

**Barry  
Boccasile**  
Vice President  
Agawam Office Manager



**Toni Lasky**  
Assistant Manager

Dorene Ayotte  
747-4988John Coughlin  
748-6159Lisa Gagnon  
846-0797John Langevin  
748-6139Kevin Lohnes  
755-2420Carmella Marzano  
748-8962Paul Montefusco  
750-0949Bob Taddia  
846-0798Ginny Typrowicz  
750-0946Linda Vanderzeypen  
747-4654Doug Van Newenhoven  
748-8842Blanche Warner  
748-6165

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Serving Agawam, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield  
and Surrounding Areas.

Agawam 789-9890  
Longmeadow 567-8931  
Southwick 569-0137  
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# AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

786-7476

768 Main Street, Agawam

786-7476

## Holiday Items Valid To December 31st...

### USDA CHOICE

Boneless Spoon Roast	\$2.69	Lb.
Boneless Sirloin Steak	\$2.99	Lb.
Prime Rib Roast (Bone In)	\$5.69	Lb.
Whole 7-Rib Rib Roast (Cut To Order)	\$4.39	Lb.
Boneless Rib Eye Roast Or Steaks	\$5.99	Lb.
Whole Boneless Rib Eyes (Cut To Order)	\$4.99	Lb.
Whole Butt Tenderloins (Roast Or Steaks)	\$6.99	Lb.
Whole Boneless Top Sirloins (Cut To Order)	\$1.99	Lb.
Fresh Ground Round (Extra Lean)		
5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49	Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99	Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck (Lean)		
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69	Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39	Lb.
Crown Roast Pork (Extra Fancy)	\$3.99	Lb.
Center Cut Pork Roast (Bone In)	\$2.39	Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.99	Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Cutlets	\$2.99	Lb.
Jordan Skinless & Shankless Hams		
(Whole)	\$1.99	Lb.
Grade "A" Skinless & Boneless Chicken		
Breast	\$1.99	Lb.
American Leg Lamb (Whole In Cryovac)	\$2.69	Lb.
Janik Holiday Kielbasa	\$2.39	Lb.
Waybest Turkeys	\$1.19	Lb.

### DELI

Land O' Lakes American Cheese	\$3.69	Lb.
Cara Donna Provolone Cheese	\$2.49	Lb.

Austrian Alps Imported Swiss Cheese	\$3.49	Lb.
Krakus Imported Ham	\$3.99	Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99	Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.69	Lb.
Hormel Genoa Salami	\$2.99	Lb.
Russer Honey Maple Ham	\$3.99	Lb.

### SEAFOOD

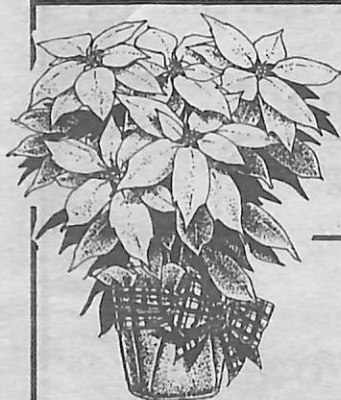
Cooked Shrimp (31-40 Count)	\$8.95	Lb.
2-Lb. Bag	\$17.00	
Frozen Can Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$13.95	
Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.99	Lb.

### PRODUCE

Bananas	39	Lb.
Large Size Red Delicious & Granny Smith Apples	89¢	Lb.
California Navel Oranges	49¢	Each
Anjou Pears	39¢	Each
Extra Large Stuffing Peppers	89¢	Lb.
Idaho Potatoes (5 Lb. Bag)	\$1.49	
Canadian Carrots (5 Lb. Bag)	99¢	
Super Select Cucumbers	39¢	Each

### DAIRY & FROZEN

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19	
Hood Egg Nog (½ Gallon)	\$3.29	
Hood Orange Juice (Gallon)	\$2.49	
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢	
Friendly Ice Cream (All Varieties - ½ Gallon)	2 For \$6.00	



**Christmas Poinsettias**  
Large 6½" Pot -  
**\$5.99**

*Foodmart Customers  
Are Welcome To Our  
Store While Renovations  
Are Being Made...*



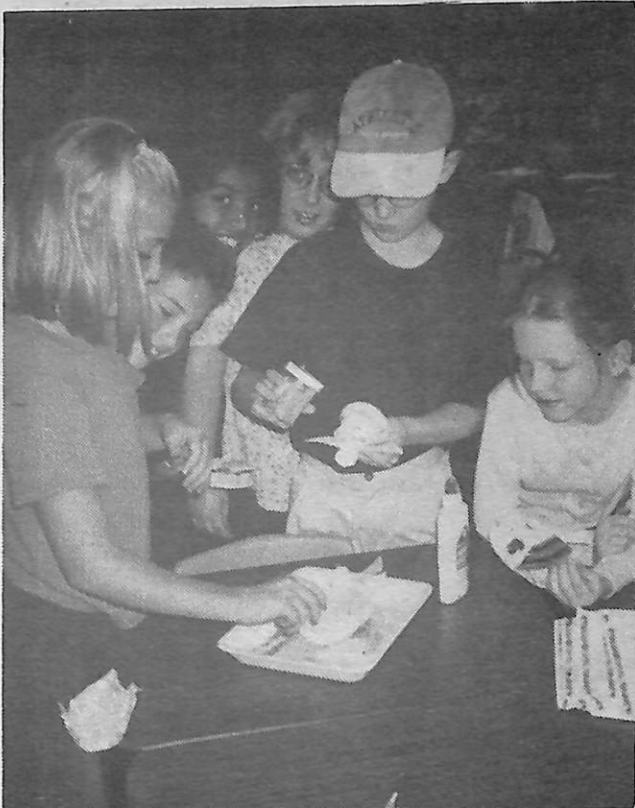
*The Staff Of Agawam Public Market Wishes Everyone  
A Merry Christmas And Best Wishes For A Happy And  
Healthy New Year. We Thank You For Your Patronage  
In 1999 And Look Forward To Serving You In 2000...*





# Education

## Making Decorations For "The Giving Tree"...



STUDENTS AT CLARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL recently made decorations for "The Children's Giving Tree," which was on display at Tower Square in downtown Springfield from November 23rd through December 17th. IN LEFT PHOTO: Room 16 students Ashley Fink, Vinnie Nitri, Pratiti Nakrani, Regina Sibilia, Lucas Zielinski, and Stephanie Walker. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Mrs. King supervises Room 13 students Brandon Chase, Steven Fiedler, D.J. Sapelli, Kim Dorans, Corinne Lewis, Megan McNair, and Carin Wagner. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

### Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

**Monday, January 3rd:** Steamed frank-furt in roll, oven-baked beans, potato rounds with catsup, chilled fruit cup, milk.

**Tuesday, January 4th:** Taco boat with cheese topping, niblet corn, cinnamon applesauce, pear macaroon, milk.

**Wednesday, January 5th:** Roast turkey with gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned peas and carrots, dinner roll, midnight chocolate cake with icing, milk.

**Thursday, January 6th:** Grilled cheese sandwich, oven potato rounds, pickle chips, chilled fruit cup or chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

**Friday, January 7th:** Meatballs in tomato sauce, broccoli and macaroni blend, bread and butter, chilled fruit cup or school-baked peanut butter cookies, milk.



SPONSORED BY THE MILTON BRADLEY COMPANY, "The Children's Giving Tree" enables children in Western Massachusetts to provide holiday toys and games to local needy youngsters by making and donating ornaments to the tree. Pictured above are Room 15 third-graders at James Clark School (from left to right): Lauren Hayden, Sarah Germain, Ashley Breault, Amanda Arbelez, and Jillian Roy. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

### Warning Slips Have Been Issued By Agawam High School

Warning slips were issued on Friday, December 17th, at Agawam High School.

華 CHINA STAR 星

Specializing in Chinese Food to Take-Out

382 Main Street  
Agawam, MA.

789-7170 • 789-7196

Any Lunch  
Combo

**\$3.75**

Expires 1/6/00 (With Coupon)

Any Dinner  
Combo

**\$4.95**

Expires 1/6/00 (With Coupon)

### Attention Parents!

Is your school meeting the needs of YOUR child?!

think about...

### The MacDuffie School

*Informational Gathering*

Monday, January 10, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Agawam Public Library

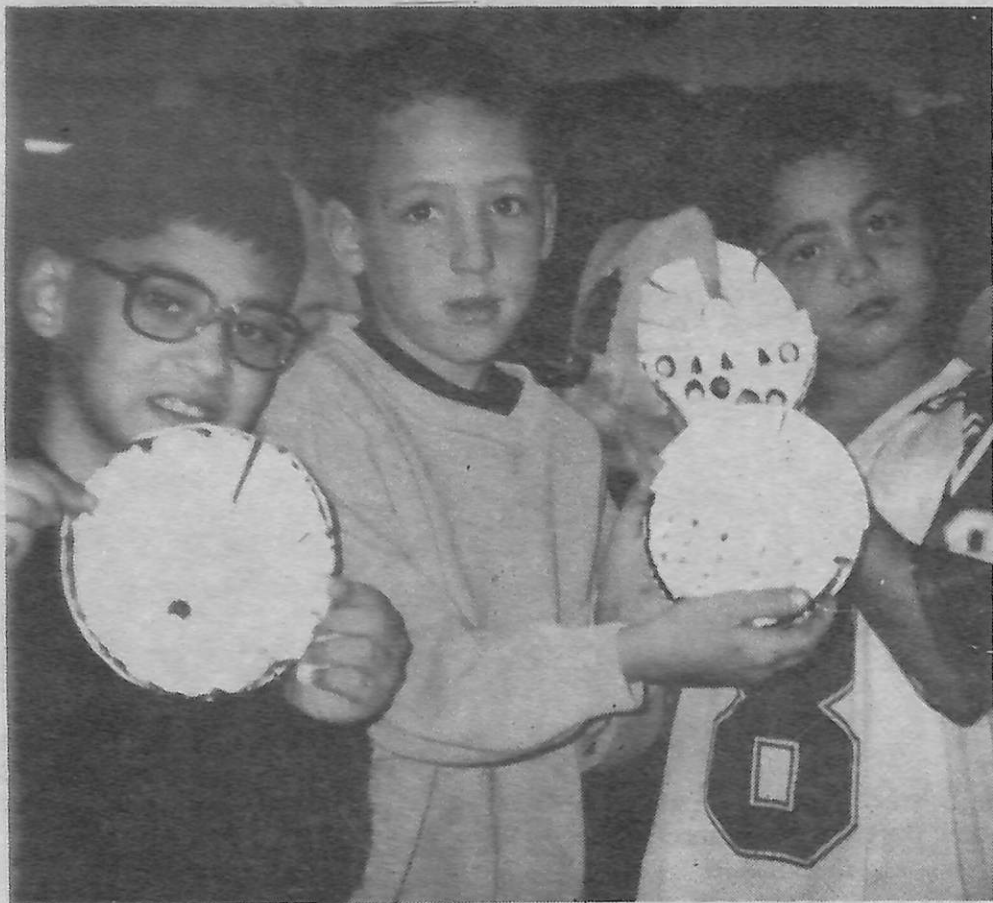
Meet current parents, students, and staff

For more information, call 413-734-4971

Coed, grades 6 - 12, located minutes away in Springfield, MA




## “Look What We’ve Made!!!”...



STUDENTS FROM JAMES CLARK SCHOOL were proud to show the decorations they recently made for “The Children’s Giving Tree.” IN LEFT PHOTO: Room 15 third-graders Ronnie Cabana, Shawn Higgins, and Nick Santinello. IN RIGHT PHOTO: From Room 13 — Angelo DePalma, Michael Bryant, D.J. Sapelli, and Taylor Hartmann. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.


*DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will be publishing various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in our first two January issues.*



# Alexander's

## Restaurant & Banquet

60 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills



786-1127  
786-1128

**Spend Your Holidays With Us!!!**

**Early Bird Specials**      Tues.—Thurs., 4:00 - 6:00

Enjoy A Variety Of Dishes Selected By Our Chef  
Entrees Include Soup Or Salad, Vegetable, Rolls And Butter.

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You Still Can Enjoy Fine Italian Cuisine Made With Only The  
Finest Quality Ingredients . We Feature Delicious Veal, Chicken,  
Beef And Seafood Entrees Cooked To Your Liking.

**Open For Dinner At 4:00 P.M.**

Tues.—Thurs., 4:00 - 9:00  
Fri. & Sat., 4:00 - 10:00  
(Closed Mondays)


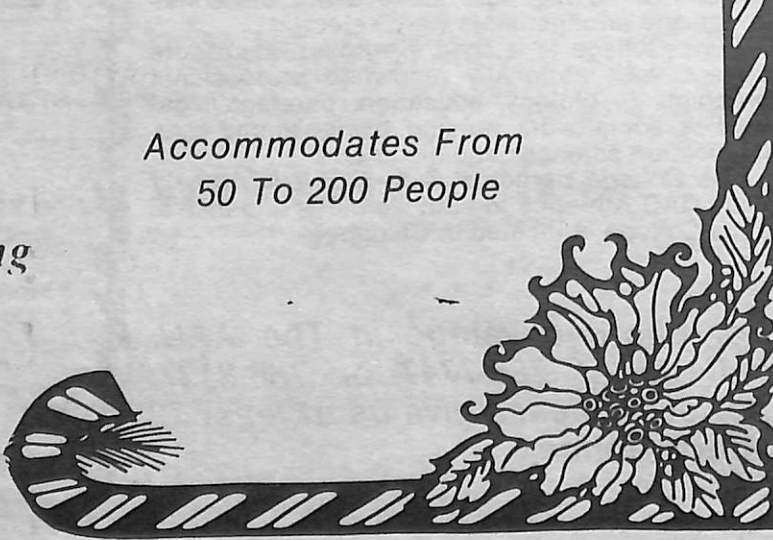
*Reservations Suggested For Friday & Saturday Nights*

*Consider Our Private Banquet Facility  
For That Special Occasion You're Planning  
(Weddings, Showers, Anniversary Parties, Etc.)*

Owner  
**Charlie Grasso**

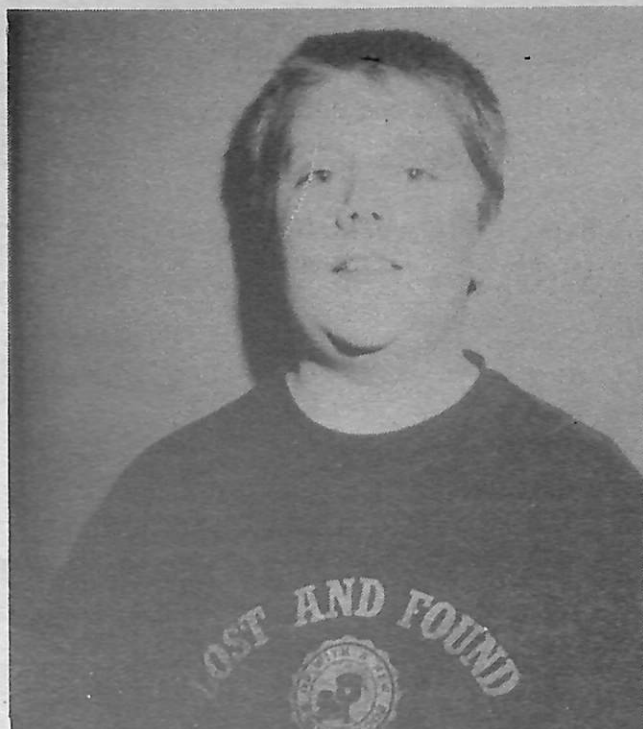
Accommodates From  
50 To 200 People

**We Are Now Open On  
Sundays From 3 To 8 P.M.**



## Phys. Ed. Students Honored At Jr. High...



The following Agawam Junior High School pupils were recently honored as "Physical Education Students of the Month": seventh-grader Jeff Walker (left), seventh-grader Maria Santaniello (center), and eighth-grader Ashley Velosky (right). Advertiser News photos by Joan Lussier.



**EIGHTH-GRADER BRIANNE NICKLAW** was recently recognized as one of the "Physical Education Students of the Month" at Agawam Junior High School. Advertiser News photo by Joan Lussier.

### Joella Raiche Participates In Recital At Elms College

Joella Raiche, daughter of Joseph and Laura Raiche of Agawam, participated in a recital that took place on Sunday, December 12th at Elms College.

Raiche, a member of the class of 2002, plays field hockey and intramural volleyball for the college. She is also involved with the student magazine, *Tourmaline*. She performed on the violin as part of the Fundamentals of Music class. Students from a variety of music studies participated in the program.

Selections from Chopin, Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and other composers were performed. To highlight the season, Christmas songs and arrangements were selected.

Elms College is a coed, Catholic, liberal arts college with nationally renowned professional programs in biology, education, paralegal/legal studies, social work, nursing, business and communication sciences and disorders.

The College participates in NCAA Division III and ECAC Athletics in both women's and men's. Elms College is located in Chicopee.

\* \* \*

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice.

\* \* \*



### From The AHS Guidance Office...

by Judy Cohen  
Agawam High School  
Guidance Counselor

#### Season Of Giving

I was in one of the stores searching for an appropriate gift. A major sale was going on and people were shoving and pushing in order to grab what they wanted. The cash registers could not keep up with the throngs of customers madly waving items in their hands in order to be noticed and waited on. Clearly, the atmosphere was not a cheery one.

As I waited in line, I started to think about this season of giving. Exactly what does this season of giving mean? To begin with, I think some of us have lost sight of the real meaning of the word "give." Does it have to mean something tangible? Should it be weighed according to how much the item cost?

I still remember one of the greatest gifts I received. They were green earrings in the shape of dinosaurs. Did I ever wear them? Of course I did, and proudly at that. You see, my oldest son had purchased them all by himself. The caring and love that he put into selecting them were forever part of the earrings, so to me the earrings were very, very special. Did they cost a lot monetarily? I doubt it, yet to me, they were worth millions!

Someone once shared the following story with

me. Everyone was seated around the Christmas tree busily opening his or her gifts. Smiles came to the faces of the children as they tore open their wrapped gifts and eagerly and happily eyed the contents. One small child watched with rapt attention as her mother ripped open the envelope that was marked in big letters written in crayon, MOM. Out fell a cut-out paper red heart with the words "I Love You" written on it. Underneath was the child's name. A few of the letters were backwards, but it didn't matter. Through tear-filled eyes, the mother looked out at her youngest daughter, smiled, and said, "Honey, this is beautiful; I will cherish it always." Again, it was something that did not cost much, yet it was invaluable.

Some of the most cherished gifts I have received are cards designed by my children, pictures drawn by them, and stories written by them. They did not visit a store to purchase them; instead, they visited their hearts. Yes, gifts from the heart; those are the special ones. Those are the ones that leave their lasting marks on us, that burrow their way into our hearts and fill us with warmth.

Giving - special, meaningful giving - is best when given from the heart. A hug, a kiss, a warm greeting, a visit to the sick or elderly, a batch of cookies made with love ... these make such special gifts.

This holiday season, as you enjoy the tangible gifts, do take special note of the intangible ones and embrace them. The gift of family, the gift of love, the gift of caring, the gift of welcome, the gift of friendship, all these gifts and more are truly what the season of giving is about. Cherish these gifts. They are priceless and give lasting meaning to our lives.

Best wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday and a happy New Year.

**REMEMBER, WE DO NOT PUBLISH BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S: Our next edition will be published on Thursday, January 6th, and the deadline is Tuesday, January 4th, at 12:00 noon.**

## HOBBYCORNER OF AGAWAM

### Christmas Shopping At The Corner!

**20% OFF** On "Corolle" Dolls And "Breyer" Horses With This Ad  
Expires 12/24/99 (Cannot Be Used With Other Discounts)

Holiday Hours: Mon. Thru Wed., 10-6; Thurs. & Fri., 10-7; Sat., 10-5; Sun., 1-5

\* Model Kits \* "HO" & "N" Scale Trains \* Puzzles & Crafts \* "Breyer" Horses \* "Queros" Leather Goods  
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**10% Permanent Discount For \$25.00-Plus Purchases**

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378 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam

HCOA@JUNO.COM



## Registration For Agawam Adult Ed.

Registration for the winter semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held on Monday evening, January 10th, and Wednesday evening, January 12th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Registration will also be held during the first week of classes on Tuesday, January 18th, and Wednesday, January 19th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Due to the observance of Martin Luther King Day (Monday, January 17th), the classes will be begin on Tuesday, January 18th, and run for 10th weeks, ending on or about April 1st. (During the mid-winter vacation, no classes will take place on Monday, February 21st, and Wednesday, February 23rd.)

Class time is 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and all Agawam Adult Education classes are held at Agawam High School.

\*\*\*

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered during the winter semester:

**Monday classes:** English 09, English 10, English 11, English 12, EXCEL, Algebra I, Power Point/Access, and General Science.

**Wednesday classes:** General Math, Computer Concepts, Microsoft WORD I, Oil Painting, and U.S. History.

The tuition charge is \$75 per course and is payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting.

Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course (or courses). The administration reserves the right to cancel a course (or courses) for lack of registration.

Those persons interested in working toward a high school diploma should bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since ninth grade.

If Agawam schools are closed because of inclement weather, evening school is also canceled (local radio stations will also announce any cancellations). Make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term.

For further information regarding the Agawam Adult Education Program, call 821-0522 or 821-0527.

On Thursday, January 13th...

## Professional Dev. Day For All K-6 Teachers In Agawam Schools

On Thursday, January 13th, the Agawam Public Schools will conduct a full day of professional development for all Kindergarten through grade 6 teachers.

Consequently, school will not be in session for Clark, Granger, Phelps, Robinson Park, and Agawam Middle School students.

Students in grades K-6 will return to school on Friday, January 14th.

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## Locals Attain Honor Roll At Suf. Academy

The following Agawam students have been named to Suffield Academy's fall term honor roll:

- \* Grade 10 -  
Hilary Golas and Brittany Locke.
- \* Grade 11 -  
Melissa Knight.

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with us ... AAN!!!*

\*\*\*

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## "Special Gifts"

by Grade 2, Room 9  
Barbara Daborowski's Class  
Phelps Elementary School

### SPECIAL GIFTS

*Christmas is a season for giving. But we don't have to buy and wrap gifts for those we love. We can give gifts that don't cost anything! These are my special gifts.*

*I will give the gift of love to my Mom by helping her do the dishes. My friends will get the gift of friendship. I will play football with them. I will give Dad the gift of helpfulness. I will help him when he's sick.*

**Joseph Gabanelli**

*I will give the gift of praise to my sister, Alison, because she can do great drawings. I will give the gift of love to my mom by cleaning my room. I will give the gift of friendship to my friend, Nikki. I will play with her at recess.*

**Katherine Stanton**

*I will give the gift of praise to my sister by saying, "Your pictures are perfect." I will give the gift of happiness to my brother by saying that, "I think you're smart."*

**Andrew Bortolussi**

*I will give the gift of love to my mom by bringing in the groceries. I will give the gift of praise to my cat, Sam, by saying that he is the best in the world.*

**Alex Cummings**

*I will give Mom the gift of love by giving her a hug and a kiss every day. My dog, Mossberg, will get the gift of happiness. I will give him a big, big, big hug. Mike, my stepdad, will get the gift of kindness. I will help him bring in the firewood.*

**David Ribeiro**

*I will give the gift of praise to my brother by telling him he has nice paintings. I will give the gift of love to my cat by playing with him. I will give the gift of kindness to my brother by playing with him. Mom and Dad will get the gift of love by giving hugs and kisses.*

**Ricki Olson**

*I will give the gift of praise by telling my sister that her schoolwork is excellent. My puppy, Molly,*



THE ROOM 9 SECOND-GRADERS of Barbara Daborowski at Phelps Elementary School.

Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

*will get the gift of love when I say, "I love you." My dad will get the gift of smiles by giving him a very, very, very big smile. Mom will get the gift of love. I will clean the dishes.*

**Erik Goodhue**

*I will give the gift of love to my mom by doing the dishes. I will give the gift of praise to my little sister, Kelsey, by telling her she draws good pictures. I will give my dad the gift of smiles because he is funny. I will give kindness to my sister, Ashley, by helping her with projects. I will give my grandma hugs and kisses because she gave me a 25-dollar check!*

**Cory Williams**

*I will give my brother praise for pulling out my tooth. I will give my family the gift of smiles for letting me stay up late on Mondays and Thursdays. I will give the gift of love to my Gram with hugs and kisses.*

**Andrew Ellsworth**

*I will give the gift of kindness to my baby brother by sharing with him. I will give the gift of love to Mrs. Daborowski by liking her for a teacher. I will give the gift of smiles to my mom by giving her very, very, very big smiles.*

**James Regnier**

*I will give the gift of praise to my sister and tell her I like the way she draws. I will give the gift of love to my family by giving them hugs and kisses. I will give kindness to my pet cat and my whole family. I will pat my cat when I come home every day. I will help my family by helping with chores.*

**Danielle Flynn**

*I will give the gift of praise to my older brother by saying his work is good. I will give the gift of love to my mom by telling my mom I love her. I will give the gift of love to my cat by telling her I love her, too.*

**Nikki Theroux**

*I will give Mom the gift of kindness by helping her make the lunches in the morning. Jazz, my pet guinea pig, will get the gift of love. I will play with her and feed her. I will give the gift of smiles to my little brother by telling him his work is good.*

**Meghan Chisholm**

*I will give the gift of love to my sister by telling her I like the way she colors. I will give the gift of kindness to my kitty by feeding her.*

**Alla Songorova**

*I will give the gift of helping to my sister by helping her learn to ride a bike without training wheels. I will give the gift of praise to my baby cousin, Julia, by telling her what nice toys she has. My mom will get the gift of love. I will make my bed. My friend Ashley will get the gift of friendship when I go to her house tonight. I will give hugs and kisses to my noni and nunu when they get home from Florida. I CAN'T WAIT!*

**Nicolette Rose Gonyea**

*I will give my sister, Emily, the gift of love by saying that I love her. My mom will get the gift of love by cleaning my room. I will give my dad smiles every time he fixes our car. Duke, my dog, will get the gift of happiness. I will give him a treat when he is good.*

**Jake Tourville**

SEE "SPECIAL GIFTS" - Page 35...

\*\*\*

The staff of  
The AAN wishes  
'Happy Holidays'  
to all of its  
readers...



*Cecilia P. Calabrese*  
Attorney at Law



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## Christmas Cinquains

by Grade 3, Room 15  
Nancy Swikalus' Class  
James Clark School

Candle  
Glowing, twinkling  
Burning, glowing, twinkling  
Fantastic, relaxed, warm, comfortable  
Glowing  
Ronnie Cabana

Ornament  
Shiny ball  
Shaking, spinning, sparkling  
Amazed, great, surprised, fantastic  
Shimmering  
Shawn Higgins

Bell  
Musical, shiny  
Tolling, chiming, ringing  
Soothing, happy, spiritual, special  
Shining  
Whitney Johnson

Ornament  
Snowman, ball  
Sparkling, glowing, hanging  
Surprised, amazed, mesmerized, satisfied  
Crystal  
Ashley Breault

Santa  
Jolly man  
Reading, flying, eating  
Loving, jolly, happy, proud  
St. Nicholas  
Ashley Balboni

Bell  
Glowing, gold  
Tolling, glowing, clanging  
Fantastic, soothing, spiritual, peaceful  
Reflecting  
Jonathan Mortenson

Tree  
Prickly, pine  
Swaying, shedding, smelling  
Proud, warm, joyful, lovely  
Tannenbaum  
Jillian Roy

Candle  
Bright, light  
Melting, burning, flaming  
Waxy, hot, relaxed, joyful  
Flickering  
Joey Wetmore

Santa  
Fat, man  
Reading, flying, racing  
Jolly, caring, loving, terrific  
St. Nick  
Michael Watts

Tree  
Prickly, pine  
Shining, swaying, blinking  
Joyful, lonely, warm, festive  
Christmas  
Jordan Moore

Ornament  
Shiny, ball  
Glowing, sparkling, rocking  
Amazed, special, surprised, satisfied  
Shining  
Alan Woessner

Wreath  
Evergreen, perfect  
Swaying, shedding, swinging  
Charming, festive, nostalgic, welcome  
Fascinating  
Jake Depalo

Santa  
Jolly, man  
Working, making, laughing  
Jolly, proud, caring, loving  
St. Nicholas  
Jessica Szczepanek

Bell  
Silver, glowing  
Shining, singing, gold  
Joyful, peaceful, ringing, dinging  
Noisy  
Maria Graziano

Candle  
Warm, lit  
Shining, glowing, twinkling  
Warm, safe, relaxed, joyful  
Christmas  
Kasia Nowik

Ornament  
Crystal, red  
Shining, sparkling, glowing  
Surprised, special, excited, terrific  
Bulb  
Lauren Hayden

Bell  
Gold, glowing  
Tolling, dinging, swinging  
Fantastic, soothing, happy, great  
Ringing  
Sarah St. Germain

Wreath  
Evergreen, round  
Swinging, smelling, glowing  
Festive, nostalgic, comfy  
Green  
Nathan Fraga

SEE "CINQUAINS" - Page 36...

"SPECIAL GIFTS" - from Page 34...

I will give Sujay and Kevin the gift of friendship and tell them they can come over and play video games. I will give the gift of happiness to my teacher by doing my best work. I will give the gift of love to my parents by telling them I love them and cleaning the basement.

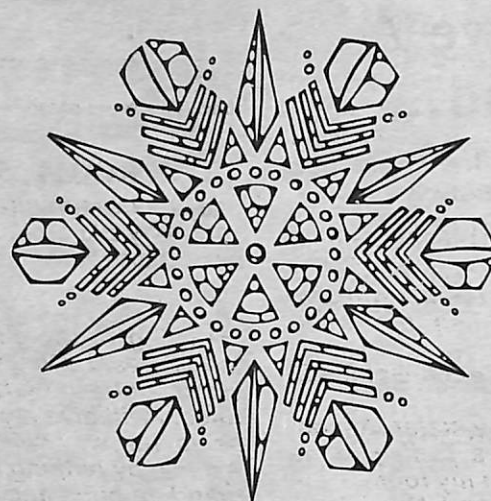
Jennifer

I will give the gift of praise to my brother by telling him his drawings are very good. I will give my Mom the gift of kindness by helping her when her back hurts. Scott will get the gift of friendship. If he wants to borrow my "Pokemon" movie, I'll say yes. And I won't yell at him. I'll give Dad the gift of helpfulness by helping him fix our car.

Aaron Cushing

I will give the gift of love to my sister, Ashley, by giving her hugs and kisses. I will give the gift of kindness to my sister, Lindsey, by helping her write her letters and numbers. I will give the gift of smiles to my mom by giving her a big smile every day.

Sarah Carmel



Season's Greetings  
And  
Happy New Year

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**"CINQUAINS - from Page 35..."**

Santa  
Pleasingly plump  
Feeding, eating, laughing  
Kind, loving, caring, hungry  
Plump

Cori Geiger

Candle  
Warm, bright  
Burning, melting, flickering  
Joyful, waxed, comfortable, content  
Glowing

Amanda Arbelez

Tree  
Prickly, pine  
Swaying, watering, blinking  
Joyful, excited, amazed, proud  
Evergreen

Austin Bodzioch

Santa  
Jolly, man  
Flying, helping, working  
Jolly, caring, happy, loving  
St. Nicholas

Nick Santinello

**"I Would Give A Granger Friend..."**

by Grade 1, Room 20  
Miss O'Keefe's Class  
Granger Elementary School

"I would give my sister butterfly hair clips."  
Cody St. Peter

"I would give Victoria candy for Christmas."  
Allison Saunders

"I will give Catie a necklace for Christmas."  
Christy Draghetti

"I would give my sister clothes."  
Sean O'Connell

"I will give Emily W. a ring."  
Carly Bussolari

"I would give Shane a car for Christmas."  
Chris Colitti

"I would give Ana a shirt and pants for Christmas."  
Angela Grassetti

"I will give Matthew a picture for Christmas."  
Brendan Baker

"I would give Jessica U. a Barbie doll for Christmas."  
Victoria DeGray

SEE "FRIEND" - Page 37...



THE ROOM 15 THIRD-GRADERS of Nancy Swikalus at James Clark School. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



MISS O'KEEFE'S GRADE 1 STUDENTS from Room 20 at Granger Elementary School. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

**— ADVERTISER NEWS —**

**Guess Who's Turning 40?**



**Happy Birthday, Andrea!**

Love,  
Lori, Dan, Josh,  
Kadie, and Megan



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head to toe in a relaxing  
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**10% Off your first visit**  
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(Not to be combined with any other offer.)



**"FRIEND" - from Page 36...**

"I will give my sister Sarah a wooden reindeer for Christmas."

**Catie Cosby**

"I would give Angela a candy cane."

**Ana Nesen**

"I would give Chris a cowboy's hat."

**Shane Lafond**

"I will give Sean a Beast War toy for Christmas."

**Angelo Liquori**

"I will give Alex a Jet Force Gemini for Christmas."

**Sam Einzig**

"I would give Michael a blow-up chair."

**Ryan Mesick**

"I would give Kristina D. and Jordan a kitten."

**Jessica Wojcik**

"I would give Corey Dill from the Rugrats."

**Stephanie Savard**

"I would give Timothy Power Rangers and the Lost Galaxy."

**Jordan Magnolia**

"I would give Leah a big pack of Christmas toys."

**Kristina Cooley**

"I'll give my sister Megan some Barbie stuff for Christmas."

**Michael Masciadrelli**

"I would give Ana a kitten."

**Kristina D'Amours**

"I would give my sisters each a Brittney Spears doll."

**Jacklyn O'Brien**

## "The Best Christmas Present For Me..."

by Grade 1, Room 5  
Mrs. Sullivan's Class  
Phelps Elementary School

The following is a Christmas wish list for gifts found neither in Santa's bag nor in a store.

The best Christmas present for me would be...  
A real horsey.

**Alyssa Ziemba**

A baby sister.

**Carolyn Dubois**

For my mommy to sleep with me because I'm scared of the dark.

**Nicole Johnson**

Two reindeer.

**Daniel Adzhigirey**

That Dad plays with me.

**Samuel Romanko**

Love from my big, big sister.

**Vibiana Tran**

That my baby cousin loves me.

**Anthony Vecchiarelli**

That I could stay with my Grandma in Germany.

**Christina Raus**

That my friends are nicer to me.

**Nicholas Tharin**

That my big brother plays with me a lot.

**Marissa Morassi**

Spending time with my family and playing games with my Dad and Mom and going for walks with them.

**Sarah Balestracci**

That my Dad would come home sooner from work.

**Michelle Ferrentino**

That my sister would play with me more.

**Lauren Mazza**

A new baby sister.

**Taryn Doyle**

To see my Dad at night.

**Brittany Randall**

A new motor boat.

**Dominic Serra**

To spend more time with my Dad.

**Stephen Cardone**

A new sister.

**Jessica Woods**

Going camping.

**Robbie Yourous**

That my mom would spend more time with me.

**Phillip Preston**

A dog.

**Elisabeth Docherty**

**AT PHELPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** The Room 5 first-graders of Mrs. Sullivan. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

\* \* \*

**DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will be publishing various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in our first two January issues.**

\* \* \*

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# Sports

## Ready For The Winter Campaign



PICTURED ABOVE ARE THE VARIOUS COACHES, CAPTAINS, AND TEAM MEMBERS of Agawam High School's winter 1999-2000 athletic program. We wish all of the Brownies the best of luck this season. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.



*Pizzas Roasting On An Open Fire...  
Grinders And Calzones  
Nipping At Your Nose...*

**Merry Christmas And Happy New Year  
From**

**Eddie Santaniello & Family  
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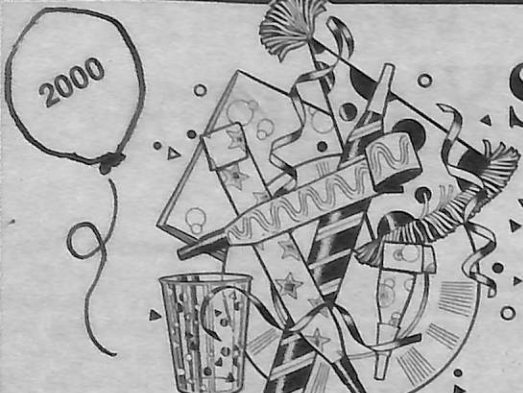
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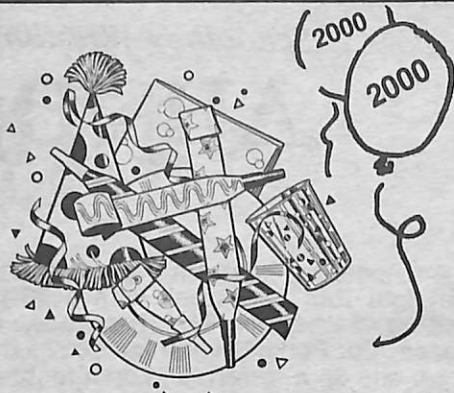




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<b>Columbia Crest</b> <b>Varietal Wines</b> <b>\$1.00 Off</b> (Every 750 ml.)	<b>Rolling Rock</b> Long Necks <b>\$14.99</b> P.D.	<b>Smirnoff</b> <b>Vodka</b> <b>\$7.99</b> (80 Proof - 750 ml.)	<b>Sandy Scot</b> <b>Scotch</b> <b>\$13.99</b> (1.75 Ltr.)	<b>Fleischmann's</b> <b>Gin</b> <b>\$10.99</b> (1.75 Ltr.)
<b>Coors</b> Extra Gold <b>\$10.99</b> P.D. (30-Pk. Cans)	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <b>Gift Sets In Stock:</b>   </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chivas Regal Glass Sets</li> <li>• Glenlivet Glass Sets</li> <li>• Drambuie With Crystal Decanter</li> <li>• Courvoisier V5 Glass Sets</li> <li>• O'Mara's Cream Glass Sets</li> <li>• Charbord With Champagne Flutes</li> <li>• Crown Royal Glass Sets</li> <li>• Bacardi Limon With Glasses</li> <li>• Bolla 2 Btls. &amp; 3 Btls.</li> <li>• Bolla 4 Btls. In Wood Case</li> <li>• Luna De Luna In Wood Case</li> <li>• Martini &amp; Rossi With Fluted Glasses</li> </ul> </div> </div>			<b>Almaden</b> "Party In A Box" <b>\$12.99</b> (5 Ltrs.) <i>Half White Zinfandel, Half Chardonnay</i>
<b>Rolling Rock</b> <b>\$9.99</b> P.D. (18-Pack Cans)				<b>Old New England</b> <b>Egg Nog</b> <b>\$5.99</b> (Ltr.)
<b>Foster's</b> From Australia <b>\$9.99</b> P.D. (12-Pack Btls.)	<b>Fleischmann's</b> <b>Pref. Whiskey</b> <b>\$12.99</b> (1.75 Ltr.)	<b>Bacardi</b> <b>Limon</b> <b>\$9.99</b> (750 ml.)	<b>Milwaukee's</b> <b>Best</b> <b>\$9.99</b> P.D. (30-Pack Cans)	<b>Peter Vella</b> (5 Ltr. Box) Low Tier - <b>\$7.99</b> High Tier - <b>\$10.99</b>
<b>Ron Roberto</b> <b>Rum</b> <b>\$10.99</b> (1.75 Ltr.)	<b>Canadian Mist</b> Special - <b>\$12.99</b> M.I. Rebate - <b>\$3.00</b> Net - <b>\$9.99</b> (1.75 Ltr.)	<b>Chi-Chi's</b> Assorted Mixes <b>\$9.99</b> (1.75 Ltr.) <i>Just Add Ice &amp; Blend!</i>	<b>Red Dog</b> (30-Pack Cans) <b>\$10.99</b> P.D.	<b>Chivas Regal</b> <b>Royal Salute</b> In Humidor <b>\$139.00</b> <i>Compare Elsewhere At \$179.00</i>
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## Schoolboy Wrestling Vs Cathedral...

# AHS Opens Season With 59-13 Victory

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

A new era for Agawam High wrestling got off on the right foot last week with a 59-13 win over visiting Cathedral. The Brownies, under new Coach Kirk Parker, won nine out of their 14 matches: one on a forfeit, one on a technical fall, six on pins, and one on a decision.

Promising Agawam freshman Don Hare won on a forfeit in the 103's.

All-Western Mass. Eric Hogan had his opponent down 15-2 in the third and ended up victorious on a technical fall.

Senior two-time All-Western Mass. competitor Dave Moore stalked onto the mat in the 119's and merely toyed with freshman Keith Maynard, pinning the Panther with 1:23 left in the first period.

It was deja vu all over again in the 125's. Agawam sophomore Steve Kunkler had his Panther ready to go with 10 seconds gone in the first. The Brownie finally got his pin with 26 seconds off the clock. At that point, Agawam had amassed a 23-0 lead in the meet.

The Panthers finally got on the board with a first-period pin in the 130's. Freshman Paul Pilegi was the victim.

Agawam regained its winning ways in the 135's. It took junior Aaron Gilbert three periods to gain a hard-fought, 6-1 decision. Gilbert led 2-0 after one and 6-1 after two periods. His opponent, senior Mike Maynard, tried to take the advantage in the final two minutes, but Gilbert (wrestling wisely) allowed his man to expend too much energy for no added points in the win.

The 140's saw an exciting loss for the Brownies. Senior Brian Chechile battled his man all the way to the third period, leading by two, 6-4. Then the action really heated up, Chechile, going for a pin with 28 seconds gone, went up, 9-4. Cathedral closed to 9-6 with a minute to go. Then Chechile went down (back spasms).

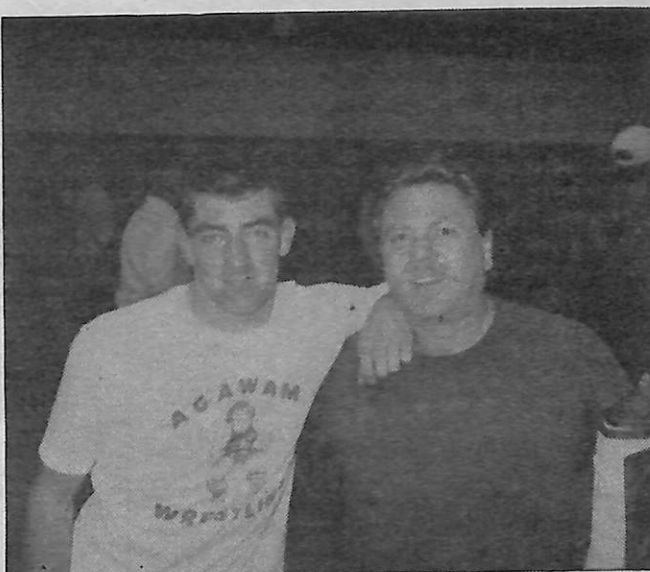
Trainer Dave Stratton was right on it. After some stretching, Chechile was able to continue. "He gets them from time to time. The doctors don't see anything wrong with him. It's just one of those things. But they can be really painful," Stratton noted.

In the final 40 seconds, the score read 10-9, Cathedral; 11-10, Agawam; 14-12, Agawam, before the Panthers' Dan McCarthy won it, 15-14, on an escape at the buzzer.

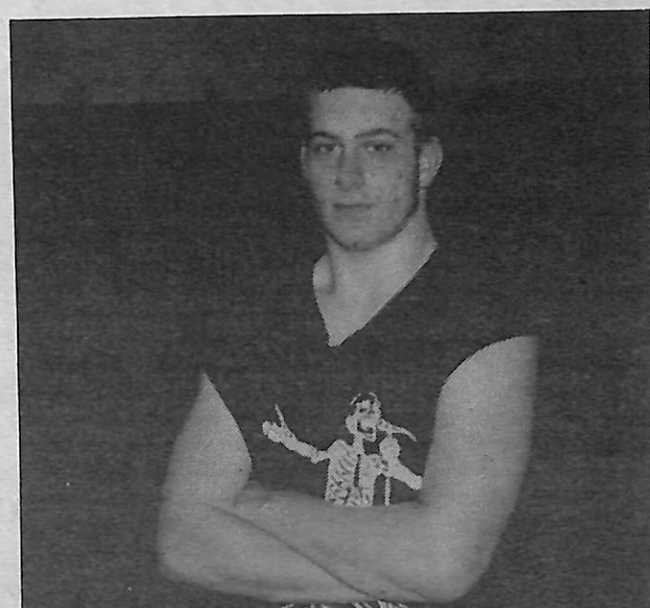
Agawam suffered another loss when Brandon Blackak lost, 10-2, in the 145's, cutting the Brownie lead to 29-13.

## An "Adventure" In The 152's...

Matt Quirk had an adventure in the 152's. The senior tri-captain was up against the Panthers'



MATT QUIRK with his dad, Kevin, after the Cathedral meet. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.



ERIC PEDERSEN showed well in the 171's versus Cathedral. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

Brian Bordua, a junior. For two periods, they stayed vertical, sizing each other up.

Finally, in the third, with the score a bagel apiece, Quirk suddenly came alive, exploding on the Panther like someone had set off a charge in his tights. The result was a big pin with 37 seconds gone that must have had Bordua wondering if anyone got the number of the truck that had flattened him. "I just got tired of the type of wrestling that was going on out there, that's all," Quirk smiled.

Senior Kevin Grealis had a pinfall in the 160's. He was totally in control with leads of 4-0 after one period and 7-0 in the second when he took out his opponent with 40 seconds gone. Agawam enjoyed a 38-13 lead at that point.

Eric Pedersen got a pinfall in the 171's. The senior went up by two in the first with a takedown at 1:55, then turned it into the pin with 40 seconds gone.

Another football star, Nick Beaudette, won a close encounter, 8-7, over Cathedral's Brendon McDonald in the 189's. Beaudette was up, 2-1, going into the third period. He scored two on a takedown and got three more on a reverse. But, with 46 seconds to go and Beaudette up 7-3, McDonald ended up going for a pin. Beaudette had to do some fancy footwork. An escape gave him one. The Panther scored five on various moves. But Beaudette, on the defensive, managed to hang on.

Senior Paul Johnson, a four-year member of the Agawam wrestling team in the 215 spot, saw some of his long, hard work pay off in a pinfall victory with 39.3 seconds gone in the first period of his match. Johnson set it all up with a nice takedown after 10 seconds had gone by.

Jon Archambault went in the heavies. This is a weight class that says you don't want your opponent on top of you at any time. Archambault was up 3-2 and was riding his Panther at the end of the first period to maintain the lead going into the second. A reversal with 15 seconds gone had Archambault (a newcomer to the sport) up 5-2. Then Archambault shot for a pin and the big Panther splattered to the mat. Archambault got the fall with 39.3 seconds left in the second two minutes, assuring the 59-13 final score.

"I'm satisfied with the way things went, considering our situation — a new coach and first-meet nerves," Coach Kirk Parker said after he received congratulations from former mentor Phil Tomkiel, who was on hand to cheer the locals on.

"I thought we handled the pressure well," Parker added.

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Hockey Vs West Springfield...

# Fatigue Catches Up With AHS In 8-3 Loss

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

After its 7-4 win over Ludlow to open the season, you might think Agawam's 8-3 loss to ancient enemy West Springfield last Thursday evening (December 16th) was a result of a letdown. Not so, according to Coach John Cirelli.

"No. We just ran out of gas," the first-year, varsity main man said.

Agawam, which can barely send three lines on to the ice (West Side had a firm four), was playing without standout senior forward Jason Malanson, who was injured 48 seconds into the Ludlow game. "The ice was definitely tilted against us tonight. We had to scramble for 45 minutes," the coach added.

Play, always rough whenever the two schools meet in any sport, was rough again in this one. The Terriers made the most of it, scoring from 15 feet out on the right point with 2:24 gone.

West Side kept the pressure on after that. Agawam picked up a penalty with 4:44 gone. However, penalty killers Brian Pagella, Tony LeClair, Brian Gilhooly, and Adam Sprague got the job done, and the Brownies were back at full strength 90 seconds later.

Agawam went on the attack at the 7:53 mark on the efforts of sophomore Dennis Wolters, LeClair, and Pagella. They also got some good back-checking from Joe Case, Matt Pereira, and Sprague when West Springfield applied pressure in the AHS zone.

Jeremy Malanson and Pereira had an opportunity with a two-on-one break at 5:06, but they couldn't bury the puck. The Brownies' first score came on a power play, with Mike Kosinski, Pagella, Sprague, LeClair, and Dave Gusek on the ice. There was 4:45 left when Pagella gathered up the puck off assists from Kosinski and Sprague and put it by Terrier keeper Matt Bocchino from 10 feet out in front.

As so often happens in hockey, the guys who got burned come back and light you up. With 4:02 left and perhaps the Brownies thinking of their effort, West Side churned up the ice and made it 2-1 on a shot that beat Brownie freshman goalie Ryan Zaczynski (high right) from 20 feet on the right point.

Thirty-seven seconds later, the Terriers scored to make it 3-1. Towards the end of the first period, Agawam (hustling on offense) had three straight shots on the West Side net from 20 feet or less and came away with a goose egg.

Agawam started the same line in the second 15 minutes they'd had on the ice in the first period — Gusek at center, LeClair on the right wing, and Pagella on the left. Sprague, the assistant defensive captain, and Gilhooly, the defensive captain, were behind them.

West Springfield, with 50 seconds left on a penalty carried over from the first period, had a breakaway with 40 seconds gone. The Agawam defense was accused of a little dirty work on the play and the Terriers were rewarded a penalty shot, which sailed harmlessly over the Brownies' net.

The Agawam defense, now holding on, basically fought the Terrier offense dead even until the 9:29 mark of the period and allowed another West Side score, making it 4-1. With eight minutes to go, West Springfield was attacking all over the Brownies' zone and got caught up-ice. Dave Gusek went all the way down the Terrier right wing and scored on a slap shot from 20 feet out, making it 4-2.

## A Power Play For Agawam...

Agawam had a power play and a good opportunity with 5:24 to play. However, Bocchino made two outstanding saves on a couple of Brownie shots to avert the threat. Adding injury to insult, West Side forward Nate Filip spun into the crease with 2:27 left and pushed one under Zaczynski for

a 5-2 lead.

West Side went on a bodacious attack to start the third period. A Brownie penalty gave the Terriers a man advantage at 13:20. Zaczynski made a great pad save at 12:06 to stop a Terrier drive and Agawam killed the penalty. It was obvious that West Side at this point was not only fresher but bigger, and strutted its stuff by using the body. With 9:14 left, they dug out the puck in the Agawam zone and rammed it home from the right corner for a 6-2 advantage.

Time was running down on the clock and out for the Brownies when West Side scored again. It came off a nice save by Zaczynski, but the puck came loose and went back in at the 2:04 mark. Down 7-2, Agawam wouldn't die. Gusek lit the

lamp with 1:53 left deep down the right wing off an assist from Gusek.

West Side would score again with 1:11 left. But it should be known that long after the issue was no longer in doubt, West Side continued to try and ring up goals. "You really can't ask kids to stop scoring," Cirelli shrugged. But many of the AHS faithful weren't so forgiving.

Maybe they don't have a core subject in that school across the river dealing with class and how to show it. Or maybe the hockey players were simply trying for some sort of a payback for the football team's miserable showing on Thanksgiving Day.

Agawam would have 25 shots on the Terrier net. West Springfield came away with 30.

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## Girls' Basketball...

## Brownies Bow To Visitors From Monument Mtn.

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' basketball team fell for the second straight time in their young season, this time last Friday evening, 64-40 to Division II power Monument Mountain at Kibbe Gym. It was the consolation round of the Longmeadow Basketball Tournament, which for some reason was played over there earlier this week before moving to Agawam for the finals.

The taller Spartans took control from the get-go with a withering man defense, which totally confused the Brownies. Agawam, unable to solve the in-your-shirt kids from the Berkshire hills, didn't shoot when it had the green light and let the shot clock run out on them in the early going (four times in all). Thus, they were down, 7-1, with 3:33 gone.

Monument went up 14-3 at the 10:07 mark sizzling 6-9 from the field, as opposed to a 1-2 performance by the Brownies. Agawam had a chance to close the gap when Monument missed seven of eight field goals in a 1:08 time span from 8:30 to 7:23. But they could only manage a 17-7 margin despite utilizing a semi full court press.

### Spartans Continue To Press

The Spartans continued to press. But despite some good defense turned in by point guard Jill Gendron and shooting guard Liz Stieg, Monument went up, 19-10, with four minutes to go.

Then Monument began posting up, taking advantage of their height advantage. They went up, 25-16 with 2:33 to go, 29-17 with 2:10 left, and ended up with a 33-21 halftime lead.

If there were adjustments to be made for the Brownies when they appeared to start the second half, none seemed evident by the play on the floor. While they'd shot fairly well (9-17), they were out-shot by the opposition (14-24 with a three-pointer). How's the old adage go? You have to shoot to score.

The Brownies started out the final 16 minutes in a zone. Monument stayed in their sticky man-to-man. And the Spartans continued to pull away, leading by 21 with 4:02 gone. Dominating underneath, they went up by 23, 53-29 with 10:23 to play.

Agawam, which had 13 first-half turnovers to Monument's eight, now had eight more to a couple by the visitors with 6:35 to go. Despite some good hustle by senior Kate Shannon and Gendron, both on offense and defense, the Brownies found themselves staring down the muzzle of a 27-point deficit at 61-34 with just under five minutes to go.

The Brownies tried some post-up of their own with four minutes left. Junior Sarah Lottermoser and freshman Vicky Taylor were called upon by Coach Lou Conte to step up. It didn't really work and Agawam fell behind, 64-34, with three minutes left. At that point, Monument was 10-20 from the field Agawam posted a 5-18 effort.

Conte had few words about his 0-2 team when it was over. "We need to take more shots offensively. And we need to get those shots by freeing up our shooters. Also, our lack of size doesn't help."

**BROWNIE STATS:** Gendron - 12 points, 6-9 fgs, 2 rebs; Stieg - 8 points, 4-9 fgs, 1 reb; Bucalo - 7 points, 2-2 fgs, 3-6 fts, 6 rebs, 1 off; Clark - 6 points, 2-4 fts, 2-7 fts, 5 rebounds, 2 off; Benton - 3 points, 1-4 fgs, 1-2 fts, 4 rebs, 1 off; Lyman - 2 points, 1-2 fgs, 1 reb; Shea - 2 points, 1-5 fgs, 1 reb.

**AGAWAM: FIELD GOALS:** 16-35 (45 percent); **FREE THROWS:** 8-18 (44 percent); No three-pointers; **TURNOVERS:** 22, points allowed off TO's - 7; **REBOUNDS:** 16 DEF, 12 OFF; **TOTAL.**

**MONUMENT MOUNTAIN:** FG's - 25-44 (54 percent); FT's - 12-19 (63 percent); Two 3's; **TURNOVERS:** 10, points allowed off TO's - 2; **REBOUNDS:** 14 DEF, 8 OFF.

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## AHS Girls' Basketball Team Chalks Up First Win Of The Season, 33-28

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' basketball team notched their first win of the season on Monday night, December 20th — a 33-28 decision over visiting Taconic. To paraphrase Shakespeare, "Tis an ugly and ill-favored thing, but it is mine!"

Indeed, the score at the end of the first half was 13-12, Taconic. That Brownie dozen was the second-lowest, first-half point production the Brownies have had this young season since their opening 11 against Wahconah. It's hard to remember such first-half frustrations for a Lou Conte-coached team over the past decade. Last year, they had almost three times that many points against the Braves in a 74-37 win.

Agawam, trying to use its speed, started out in its man-to-man defense. Taconic zoned up in a 1-2-2.

The faithful got an inkling that it would be a sparse scoring deal when they checked the clock with just over five minutes gone and it read 3-1, Taconic. At that point, Agawam was 0-7 from the field. The Braves weren't much better at 1-8.

Things kicked up a little after that. Agawam led 4-3, then committed two turnovers which saw the Braves go up, 7-6. Junior center Laura Bucalo, who would score eight points, fought the crowd down in the low blocks for a deuce and Agawam went up, 8-7, with seven minutes to go.

Agawam was moving the ball around fairly well against the bone, but Taconic was still able to double up on the shooter. The Braves took a 9-8 lead with four minutes to go on 4-16 from the field. Agawam was equally frustrated, going 3-16. Agawam led 10-9 with three minutes left.

After trading hoops down the stretch, the Brownies dragged their 13-12 deficit into the locker room.

### Advice From Coach Conte...

Conte had some advice for his girls during the intermission, according to Bucalo. "Yeah, he told us to kick the ball out and push it up court and to look for the shooter as fast as we could."

The Brownies started out the second half in a press, which seemed to throw the Spartans off just a bit. Senior Kate Shannon (eight points) hit two quick hoops and junior point guard Jill Gendron (six points) added another bucket, giving Agawam a 20-15 lead.

Agawam continued the press, with senior Sherri Benton, Gendron, and Shannon leading the way. Then they fell back into a zone. Even though the Brownies were moving a little better, they had their lapses. At the 10:27 mark, Taconic closed the gap to 22-20.

### Schoolboy Wrestling...

## AHS Finishes Fifth At Tournament

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High wrestling team traveled to Central Massachusetts last Saturday afternoon (December 18th) to compete in the Milford Tournament. There were nine schools present, including Division I Eastern Mass. powerhouse Brockton, along with some top Division II schools — Quabbin Regional, Natick, Holliston, and the eventual meet champion, North Attleboro.

Agawam, aside from Brockton, was the only other Division I school in attendance and finished fifth. Five kids placed for the Brownies: Eric

Up 24-20, an Agawam turnover saw the Braves close to 24-22.

With nine minutes left on the clock, Bucalo (always tough underneath) tore one off the offensive glass and laid it up, got fouled, and drained the charity shot, staking the home team to a 27-22 advantage. Taconic switched to a man-to-man defense and the Brownies, seeing that, tried to post up. It was Bucalo, banging under the boards, who got two more by way of an offensive rebound to put the Brownies up, 29-22, with 4:50 to go.

At that point, Agawam was 8-22 from the field, Taconic chimed in at 4:22. Each club had seven second-half turnovers at that point. Occasionally, the Brownies showed signs of getting their motion offense in motion. A nice feed from Shannon to senior Jen Lyman (cutting from the right point with 3:20 to go) put Agawam up, 31-23.

With 30 seconds to go, a Taconic trey saw Agawam's lead shrink slightly to 31-28. But a pull-up and pop by Shannon with seven ticks left produced the 33-28 final.

### A Couple Of Post-Game Comments...

"It feels good," Bucalo smiled afterwards about the team's first win. She also noted that her club dominated the boards by out-rebounding the Braves, 40-27. "Yeah, Coach Conte is teaching us how to box out because so many teams are taller than us," she told us.

**BROWNIE STATS:** Bucalo — 8 points, 3-9 FG, 2-5 FT, 9 RBS, 3 OFF; Shannon — 8 points, 4-4 FG, 3 RBS, 1 OFF; Gendron — 6 points, 3-12 FG, 10 RBS, 3 OFF; Stieg — 4 points, 2-5 FG, 1 REB; Taylor — 4 points, 2-5 FG, 2 RBS; Lyman — 2 points, 1-7 FG, 4 RBS, 1 OFF; Clark — 1 point, 0-0 FG, 1-2 FT, 3 RBS; Lottermoser — 0, 0-2 FG, 2 RBS.

**FIELD GOALS** — 15-52 (28%); **FREE THROWS** — 3-7 (42%), 0-1 three-point attempts.

**TURNOVERS** — 18; points allowed off TO's — 8.

**REBOUNDS** — 40, 27 DEF, 13 OFF.

**TACONIC** — 12-55 (21%) FG, 2-9 three-point attempts, 2-9 FT; **TURNOVERS** — 16; points allowed off TO's — 1; **REBOUNDS** — 26, 9 OFF.

**JV NOTES:** The Brownies junior varsity raised its record to 2-0 with a 51-31 win over the Taconic JV's. Freshman center Kristin Strole and freshman guard Nicki Gutowski had 10 points apiece. Freshman forward Erin McLane chipped in with seven points and six rebounds for the effort.

The JV's are again coached by Karen Patterson, a former AHS hoop star of the late 1980's.

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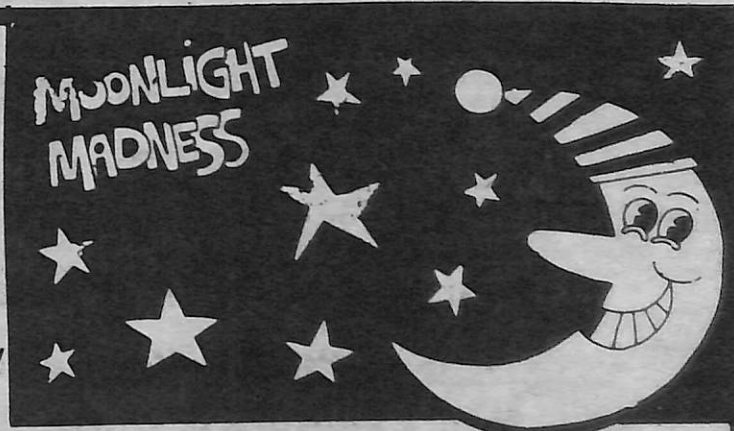
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# Brownies Receive Jackets/Warm-Up Uniforms At Party

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

Honoring AHS's '99 Baseball Team...

There is never really an off season when it comes to baseball, so we're talking about it now, even while the birds are frozen to the tree branches outside your window. We're talking Agawam High School baseball (as in Western Mass. Division I championships). A couple months ago, the team was rewarded for their 1999 season (17-7 and the Western Mass. crown). At a pizza party at Coach Pete Clark's house, they got their team jackets denoting their title. They were also given new warm-up uniforms, all courtesy of the AHS Baseball Booster Club. "They held it at my house because of the big backyard, I guess," Clark smiled. While the bat would probably shatter if you hit a baseball in this weather, the memory of last season and the one to come are warmly on Clark's mind. When asked if he'd started thinking seriously yet about baseball, his answer was, "I haven't stopped. The seniors from last season were a good group - a tough group to lose," he added.

**Never Too Soon To Be Looking Ahead**  
Right in baseball, it's never too soon to look ahead. And Clark considered whether the new millennium team will be stronger one than last season's edition. "Repeating is never easy. But they were all team-oriented before and there's no reason they shouldn't continue to be that way again. They are a close group with the right attitude, especially in the mental category, which will be needed since we'll face the same tough competition, including Westfield, Chicopee, Chicopee Comp, Minnechaug, and Pittsfield," noted Clark. They beat Pittsfield, 9-7, at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield to clinch the Western Mass. title. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association states that coaches can't be involved with their kids during the off-season. "Are they doing anything baseball-wise these days? I really don't know," said Clark. "But some are playing other sports. Some are going to clinics and some and in the weight room. They'll be ready," he added with a confident smile.

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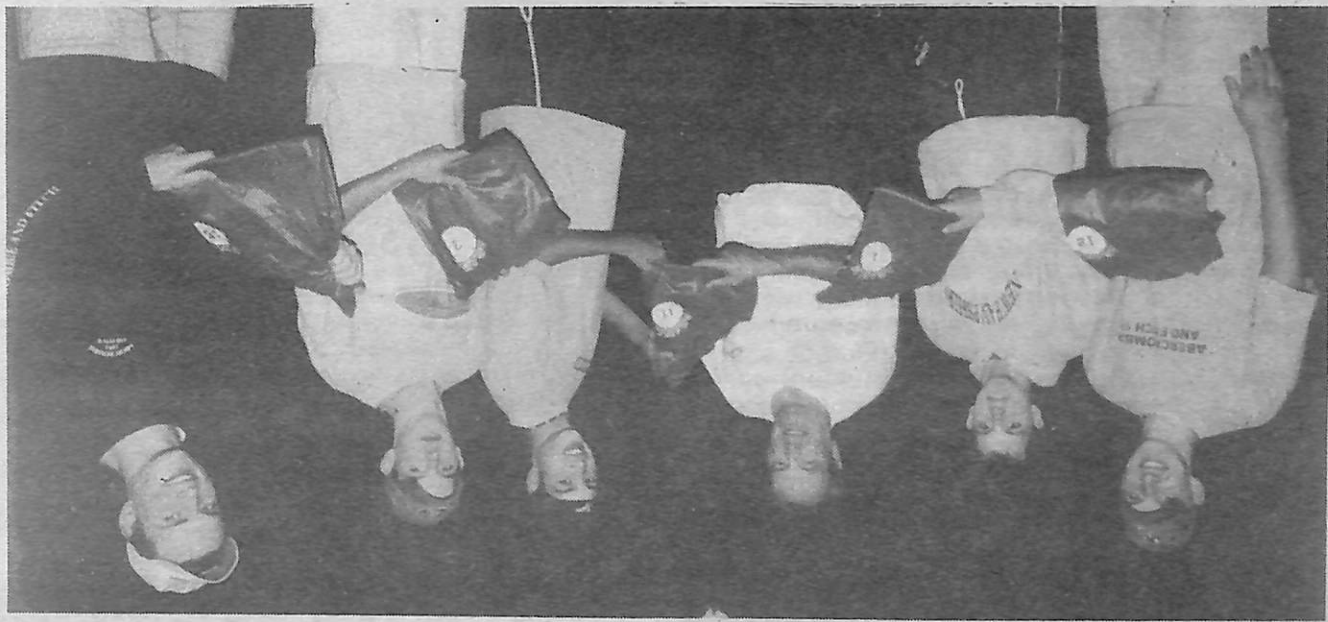
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THE PLAYERS AND COACHES OF THE Agawam High School Brownies — the 1999 Western Mass. baseball champions — receive their championship jackets, compliments of the AHS Baseball Booster Club.





# A Review Of AHS's 1999 Football Season...

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High Brownie football season is a memory now and a fairly sweet one indeed. The team, under new Coach Tad Desautels, went 6-4 and save for the bounce of the ball, could have ended up 7-3.

The coach gave a rundown of his club's performance this past season - an appraisal that went from one (poor) to 10 (top notch).

He started with the offensive line, giving that group a 7.5 "They were outstanding. What can you say about a group of kids who enabled us to have a 1,000-yard rusher (Dave Moore) and a quarterback who had 1,000 yards passing and 800 yards rushing. Plus, they led to us averaging 24 points a game, which wasn't bad," said Desautels.

Notables along the line included junior guard Frank Ferrentino and senior center Jon Archambault. Guard Ryan Malanson was named as the most improved junior at the football banquet.

## Receiving Corps Another Strong Point

Another strong point for the Brownies was their receiving corps led by all-league senior wideout Scott Harlin (44 REC/854 yards/nine TDS). Junior tight end Lou Conte had two TDs and 142 yards on 11 catches. "Lou improved over time. He also did an excellent job as our long snapper," the coach noted.



**BROWNIE TRAINER Dave Stratton is one of the best around.** Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

The offensive backs get a 7, according to the coach. They had one of the best in the business this year in all-league rusher Dave Moore (216 carries - 1,157/10 TDS). "What had to amaze people about him was the fact that despite his size (5'4", 130 lbs.), Dave ran up the middle and off tackle as many times as he carried wide on sweeps. He is one rugged kid," Desautels said.

The coach also singled out junior up-back Tony Liquori. "Tony, with his lead blocks, was one of the reasons Dave got the yards he did. Tony was unselfish and knew his role."

Then there was option quarterback Brian St. Jean. The all-league senior was perfect for the position - as his numbers indicate (110/850/10 TDS rushing, 61-199/1,084/nine TDS/four INT passing). "Without a doubt, Brian was a key to our



**COACH TAD DESAUTELS**

season. And when the other teams tightened up on his running, he threw. Consider his four TD passes against Cathedral," said Desautels.

The defense gave up 232 PPG (23 AVG). Along the way, they recorded two shutouts (26-0 vs Greenfield and 28-0 vs. South Hadley). Desautels gave the offensive line a 7. "At times they dominated," he noted. All-league senior nose guard Jerry Graves was one of the reasons. "Jerry was almost always double-teamed, which freed up one of our other defensive linemen."

Two who benefited from Grave's efforts were junior defensive end and all-league selection Nick Beaudette (nine sacks) and senior defensive end Eric Pederson. "Nick is a ferocious pass rusher. And Eric, from time-to-time, played as well as anyone," the coach noted.

## Linebackers Integral To Defensive Game

The linebackers, integral to the defensive game plan, rated a 7. "We asked all of them to make tackles. And for the most part, they did," Desautels said.

Seniors Vic Romano (second team all-league), Dennis Liptak (both captains), and Liquori did the primary linebacker duties. "Tony (Liquori) had maybe the toughest job by following the other team's tight end wherever he went. He got better as the year went on," Desautels noted.

The defensive backs pulled down an 8 from the coach. Harlin, at corner, had six interceptions. He was also assigned to the opposition's best receiver. Moore was the other corner and managed three picks. St. Jean was the safety and intercepted five balls. "Without a doubt, Brian was the hardest hitter on the team," Desautels said.

The special teams came in with a 6.5 "They were steady but not outstanding," the coach admitted. The PAT and field goal crews were strong. But kick-offs, on occasion, needed help. They got

burnt when one was blown in their 13-10 loss to Holyoke. "We'll work on that next year," Desautels said.

Finally, how did the coaching staff measure up? "I give us a 6; after all, we won six games, which should count for a point apiece," the coach smiled. Then he added, "We were a first-year staff for the most part. My assistants were extremely loyal and did a great job."

He rated their best coaching performance in the 42-35 win over Minnechaug Regional. "It was a come-from-behind, see-saw situation. We found ways to attack them. The whole thing was a confidence builder," said Desautels.

The dog of the season had to be Central - a 54-8 blowout. "Even though I felt we went in prepared, things just didn't go right. We got there a little late and spent too much time before the game and at halftime in the locker room. We had very little tackling success on the field and mainly didn't make many plays on offense or defense," the coach said, looking back on that painful evening in Springfield.

The coaching staff has to have this compliment paid to them. They never panicked, despite the situation; never changed their game plan when they were up against it. All of them displayed a



**BRIAN ST. JEAN**

tremendous amount of cool under fire. "We came and played with what we had, what we did the best. That's really the only way to approach the game," Desautels said.

Agawam will lose 16 seniors, including an outstanding core group: St. Jean and Moore, linebacker Russ Smith, Romano, Pedersen, Graves, Archambault, and Dennis Liptak.

But Desautels assures us that some good ones will hopefully be coming back, among them junior tackle Isidro Aguinaga, Beaudette, Liquori, Malanson, Ferrentino, sophomore tackle Curtis Mirecki, and Conte.

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## Profile...

## Kate Shannon Ready For '99-'00 Hoop Season

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

Kate Shannon is a three-sport performer at Agawam High School. Recently, the senior took a moment to talk about her days as a Brownie.

Kate will turn 18 on January 17th. All four years of her secondary education have been at Agawam. Currently, Kate is taking AP English, honors accounting, AP biology, sociology, and yearbook (literary writer). Kate is on the honor roll and a member of the National Honor Society and the Renaissance Club.

Kate's favorite course is gym. Armando Ramos (gym) is her top teacher.

Right now, she is interested in Stonehill College, which is located in North Easton, MA.

Kate plays soccer, basketball, and lacrosse. Soccer is her favorite sport. However, her most memorable sports moment came last year when the Brownies beat eventual Western Mass. champion Minnechaug twice during the regular season in lacrosse.

Soccer is history now, but Kate sees the season as disappointing. "But still, I had a fun time and Coach (Laura) Wray was enjoyable to play for," she noted. It's basketball now and the Brownies, usually a Western Mass. powerhouse, will be hard-pressed this time around. Kate, a three-year hoop veteran, had this take. "It's definitely a rebuilding year for us. Everyone will have to contribute. If we play hard and hustle, things will work out."

Kate's favorite food is her mom's ribs. "She makes them in a crock pot. They are so good," she smiled.

Navy blue is her favorite color.

Her choice in wheels would be a 1999 Jeep Cherokee.

The Boston Celtics and former great Larry Bird are Kate's top picks in sports.

When she hangs out, it is usually at her friend's houses.

She likes casual clothes from such places as Abercrombie and Fitch and Old Navy.

The Dave Mathews Band is her favorite group. "I like all kinds of music, including country," Kate admitted. Her favorite artist in that "She's thinking single, so I'm drinking doubles" style of tunes is Deanna Carter.

"Real World" is her top tube offering.

Janet and Gary are her mom and dad. She has a sister, Megan, a former cheerleader who graduated from AHS in 1997.

She looks up to her parents.

When Kate's days at AHS are done, she wants to be remembered as "someone who could make people laugh."

Basketball Coach Lou Conte had this to say of the 5'4" guard. "Kate is a tough, hard competitor who hates to lose. She plays the game with a great deal of fire."



KATE SHANNON

### JV Schoolgirl Basketball...

## Katie Ratkiewicz Shines For Unicorns At MacDuffie School

On December 4th, The MacDuffie School's girls' junior varsity basketball team suffered a tough, 12-19 loss against PVCS (Pioneer Valley Christian School).

The MacDuffie girls started off strong, scoring the first four points of the game and ending the first half in a 6-6 tie. However, PVCS had a run in the last quarter of play, and MacDuffie failed to

recover.

Eighth-grader Katie Ratkiewicz of Agawam had a game high of eight points for the Unicorns.

Located on Ames Hill Drive in Springfield, MA, The MacDuffie School is an independent, coeducational, college-preparatory school for students in grades six through 12.

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**DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will be publishing various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in our first two January issues.**

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## In Tri-Parish Bowling...

## St. Louis' Lead Shrinks A Bit As Round 2 Progresses

Six weeks into the second round of the Tri-Parish Bowling League, St. Louis is still in the lead but by less than before. Fordham put a move on them to tighten the race up a little.

Fordham used the 3-1 win to climb within two points. For the losers, Jim "Big Mac" McCormack rolled 110, 107, and 104 for a 321 total. Glen "Not Sam" Adams did his best with scores of 134, 116, and 132 for a great 382, but he ran into a buzz saw as "Jolly" Ollie Muldrew ran off strings of 132, 117, and a mighty 171 for a 420 total.

"Jolly" was heard saying, "Not too bad for an old guy two days short of 72 years." This is going to be a tough act to follow.

St. Mary took Catholic University 3-1 in a lopsided match. CU's Kathy "Big Cat" Burlingham rolled a 327 in a try to stem the team effort by St. Mary's bowlers.

Don "Reb" Stitt chalked up a 293, Mary "Not Marlo" Thomas added a 294, and Rich "Golden" Snyder earned a 302 for the winners. The win brought St. Mary within three points of the leaders.

Georgetown kept pace by winning over Boston College, 3-1, and also staying three points behind St. Louis.

Debbie "Mighty" Poirier rolled a 322 and was helped by a 322 from Mark "Up" Edwards. Barb "Wire" Howard slipped on her second string (only rolling 77) to spoil a good night.

For the losers, Betsy "Loaded" Cannon could only muster a 302. The shock of all that green hasn't worn off yet.

Roger "Rabbit" Josephson must have gotten a recharge because he turned in a pretty good score of 312.

Holy Cross edged out Notre Dame, 2½-1½. A tie in the third string earned each team half a point and caused the total pinfall (worth one point) to remain a six-pin difference.

Ron "The Don" Menard edged out Flo "Rocky" Rochford, 346 to 338, in the anchor match-up,

## Congratulating AHS's Cheerleaders



AT A RECENTLY HELD Agawam School Committee meeting, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson presents a citation to Coach Kim Hebert in honor of the Agawam High School varsity cheerleaders winning the state championship. Looking on is School Committee Vice-Chairwoman Susan Pettazzoni (far left). Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

which seemed to make the difference in total pinfall.

(REMINDER: There are only two more weeks left in this round!)

### STANDINGS

St. Louis	16-8
Fordham	14-10
St. Mary	13-11
Georgetown	13-11
Catholic Univ.	12-12
Holy Cross	11½-12½
Notre Dame	8½-15½
Boston College	8-16

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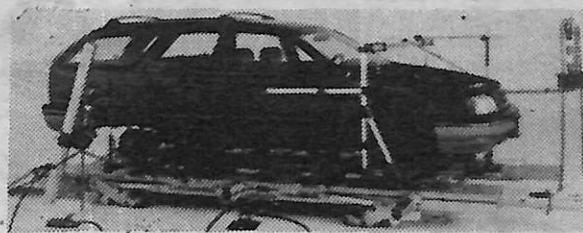


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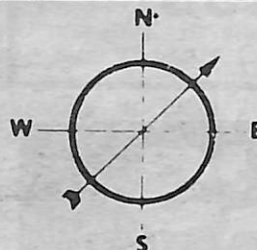
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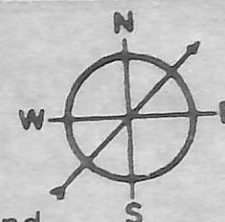
Since 1975

Custom Homes • Remodeling

**RICK PFEFFER**  
4 LENOX ST.  
FEEDING HILLS, MA 01030  
413-789-1150



## Northeast Builders (Since 1975)



- Roofing • Siding • Kitchens And Baths • Additions • Major Remodeling

*Rick Pfeffer*  
*4 Lenox Street, Feeding Hills*  
**789-1150**

Reg. No. 116963; Const. Sup. No. 000450  
*Free Estimates ... Fully Licensed And Insured*

## New Roofing & Repairs



**Suffriti Construction Co.**



Insured & Licensed

*Many Referrals*

**786-5516**

## Richy's Tree Service

- |                |              |                |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Tree Trimming  | Woodchips    | Brush Chipping |
| Stump Grinding | Tree Removal | Shrub Trimming |

Complete Clean Up Service

**CALL THE BEST WITHOUT THE MESS**

Free Estimates - Senior Citizen Discount 10%  
**Complete Professional, Neat, Honest Work And Many References**



*Serving Area Residents For 20 Years*

**Snow Plowing**

\* Commercial & Residential \*

*Fully Insured*

**786-1786**  
**786-0808**





# Classifieds

## SERVICES

**CARPENTRY SERVICES:** Additions & remodeling, family rooms, cellars, kitchens & baths, Florida rooms & screen porches, decks & replacement windows, wood siding & sheds. 25 yrs. exp. Fully insured & references. No job too small. Call George Bernier, 786-8452.

**BILL SPEAR FORESTRY SERVICES:** Complete tree removal, trimming. Land cleared. Senior citizen discount. FREE ESTIMATES. Fully insured. Call 786-5081.

**DAVID'S WINDOW CLEANING AND JANITORIAL**  
Mother's Little Helper! Floors waxed, rugs shampooed, walls washed. Commercial and residential. Call Paul Ferrarini, (413) 786-4436.

**PAUL'S TREE SERVICE:** Fully insured, free estimates. Removal, pruning, planting, stump grinding, firewood. Senior citizen discount; 24-hour emergency service. 15 years experience. Call Paul Cocchi, 733-7520.

**NORTHEAST BUILDERS:** Custom homes & remodeling (since 1975). Fully insured & licensed. Rick Pfeffer, 4 Lenox St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Reg. No. 116963; Const. Sup. No. 000450. (413) 789-1150.

**VERMETTE AUTO BODY:** Complete collision service. 19 years of customer satisfaction. We work with all insurance companies. 787 Silver Street, Agawam, 786-8226. (MA. REG. NO. 1842.)

**AUTO TRIM BY GEORGE:** Truck seats; auto seats; headliners; boat seats; motorcycle seats; convertible tops; tonneau covers; rugs; construction equipment seats. 10% senior discount. Call George, 786-6073.

**JOE RUSSO PAVING & EXCAVATING:** In business for over 40 years. Fully insured. Blacktop & sealed driveways. Loam, landscaping, fill. In-ground oil tank removal. 649 Cooper St., Agawam. Phone & fax: (413) 786-0617.

**CHILD CARE:** Experienced teacher and child care provider has openings for all ages. Large back yard. Nutritious meals and snacks. Preschool program included. License no. 184792. Call Sue at 789-2530.

**ROGER PAQUETTE ROOFING:** Free estimates. Call anytime, 789-1786. Agawam, MA.

**LOOKING FOR AN ACCOUNTANT?** Call Frank A. Schoenrock, Certified Public Accountant, 18R Hartford Avenue, Granby Center, (860) 653-0734.

**RENT-A-SPOUSE:** Errands & Odd Jobs are Us — Large & small repairs, landscaping, clean gutters, items moved, hauled or towed, trash removal, housecleaning, grocery & gift shopping/wrapping, ironing. If a traditional husband or wife does it — SO DO WE! Fully insured, gift certificates, MC/Visa accepted. 789-7911.

**SPRINGFIELD TURN-VEREIN:** Catering to weddings, banquets, parties, and receptions. Two rooms available with seating up to 250 people. 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, 786-0924.

**EXCELLENT CARPENTRY:** Small jobs to custom homes. Honest work at today's prices. Free estimates; senior citizen discounts. Stephen Gould, 786-6887.

**SHADES ON WHEELS:** Your complete custom window treatment specialist, all at discount prices. Free estimates and installation — satisfaction guaranteed. (413) 786-9411.

**EXTERIOR-INTERIOR PAINTING:** Old and new construction. Power washing. Mural painting. Affordable, reliable, complete prep. Good references. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Seven Colors at (413) 568-2195.

**3 J REMOVAL:** Attics, basements, garages, and more. Complete removal service. Free est. Lowest rates. 783-6103.

**DISC JOCKEY SERVICE:** Providing the very best in entertainment and sound. Music Box Productions — DJ Tom Melbourne (certified professional). (413) 789-6788.

**GEORGE FARINA LANDSCAPING:** Snow removal and firewood. 786-5658.

**MINOR PLUMBING:** Quality plumbing at reasonable rates. Prompt and efficient service. Lic. no. 203752. Bob at 572-9143 (Westfield).

**BOB LONGO CONSTRUCTION:** 27 years specializing in kitchens and additions. Free custom design. Fully insured, free estimates. In Agawam, 789-0758.

**SUFFRITI CONSTRUCTION CO.:** New roofing and repairs. Insured and licensed. Many referrals. 786-5516.

**CHARTIER'S GENERAL CARPENTRY:** We take the worry out of building. Additions; new construction; renovations; custom decks. Lic. no. 051681; fully insured. Don Chartier, owner, (413) 789-7011.

**GARIBIAN ELECTRIC:** All your electrical needs. Fully insured; free estimates; prompt service; 10% senior discount. (413) 781-4376 or (413) 569-2925.

**T.J. BARK MULCH, INC.:** All natural, double ground bark mulch. Delivery available. Pick-up at 994 Western Ave., Westfield, MA. M-F, 7-5; Sun., 10-2. (413) 568-6856 or (860) 654-1975.

**DAYCARE:** I am a professional family daycare provider licensed (186383) by the Massachusetts Office for Children. I'm located off River Road in Agawam. For more information, call Maggie at Pooh's Corner, 786-8806.

**TIM'S CARPENTRY:** Specializing in interior finish work. Also kitchen & bath remodeling. Additions, decks, cedar closets. Installation of hardwood floors. Free estimates; insured. (413) 789-2367.

**PAUL'S REMOVAL & REPAIRS:** Yards, odd jobs, old shed removal, rubbish removal, attics, garages. Free estimates, insured. Quality service always. Paul Heiden, 788-4813. (See our display ad in *The AAN* for our "Holiday Specials.")

**TRASH REMOVAL:** Garages, attics, & cellars cleaned out. Lawn service, unwanted items, metal removal. Insured. Call Mr. T's Cleaning Svc. Phone 789-0540, beeper 735-4535.

**REIDY'S LANDSCAPING:** Complete fall clean-ups or you rake 'em, we'll take 'em! Agawam, MA 786-8575.

**CHC HOME CLEANING SERVICE:** Free estimates on weekly & bi-weekly cleaning and one-time service. Quality service, experienced. Local references. Call Gail today, 786-4622.

**ATTENTION RETIREES:** Concerned about your retirement income? Our free report shows you how to increase your income and reduce your taxes now! Discover secrets the IRS and the federal government hope you never learn! Call 1-800-738-0683 (available 24 hours) to order your free report today. And remember ... there's no obligation, just great information!

**SERVICEMASTER:** We offer many cleaning services including carpet upholstery, floors and power washing of siding. Licensed and insured. In business over 15 years. Call for free estimate, (413) 532-6298 or (860) 763-0528.

**MR. SERVICE:** Your hometown repair man. In-home repairs on all major appliances. Fast, friendly service. Senior citizen discount. Same-day service. 789-1883.

**TREE STUMP GRINDING:** Lowest prices, fastest service. Free estimates. Call Pine Grove Stump Grinding, (413) 783-7236.

## WANTED

**WANTED — EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT:** Suffield Public Schools is seeking a full-time/school year Special Educational Assistant/Child Specific. Salary in accordance with C.I.L.U. Contract (starting rate \$9.35/hour). Call (860) 668-3801, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., for application information. Open Until Filled.

**WANTED:** Clerk/cashier needed part-time nights & weekends. Deli & lottery experience helpful. Agawam, 821-0042. Ask for Mark.

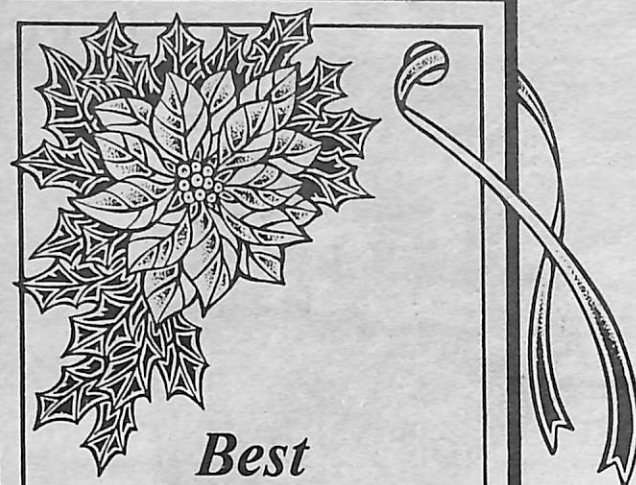
**WALLPAPER STRIPPING, PAINTING:** Spraytex ceilings, wall covering installation. Insured, clean; quality since 1982. (413) 525-2720, cell (413) 539-8660. steven.g.erickson@snet.net. Homes, rentals, hotels.

## PETS

**FREE RABBIT:** Dutch lop-eared, gray, male. 8 months-old. Litter box trained. To good home. (413) 786-1599.

## PERSONAL

**THANK YOU ST. JUDE**  
For prayers answered. Publication promised. E.C.



## Best Wishes

*for a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!*

The staff of the  
ADVERTISER NEWS

## Attention Retirees! Concerned About Your Retirement Income?

Our free report shows you how to increase your income and reduce your taxes NOW!

Discover secrets the IRS and the federal government hope you never learn! Call 1-800-738-0683 (available 24 hours) to order your free report today!

*And remember ... there's no obligation, just great information!*

## Bill Spear Forestry Services

786-5081

*I would like to thank everyone for the support offered to my family over the past two decades and wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous millennium.*





# Holiday Fitness Special!

## 4 weeks for ONLY \$49!



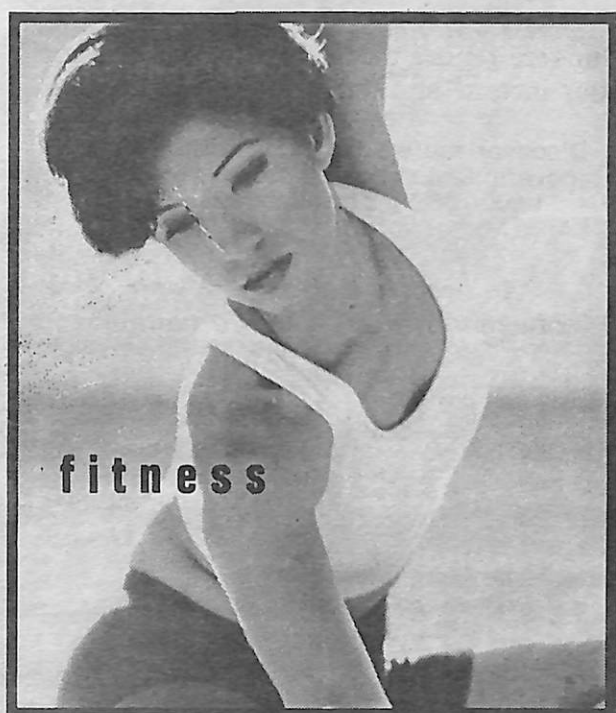
Give a gift certificate to a friend or join yourself!

*Plenty of Gift Certificates are available for gift giving!*

Offer ends December 31, 1999.

## FREE TANNING & SPINNING INCLUDED!

Start getting into shape *NOW* for the holidays and for the New Year ahead by working out at the area's finest health club...Fitness First!



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413.786.1460

[www.fitnessfirsthealthclub.com](http://www.fitnessfirsthealthclub.com)